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Manga
SPIRIT OF WONDER 1 of 5
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#1
KENJI TSURUTA
SPIRIT OF WONDER
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Kenji Tsuruta

translation by
Dana Lewis and
Toren Smith

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DOC-
TOR BRECKEN-LIDGE! YOU COME OUT NOW!
BAD DOCTOR PRETEND-ING NOT HOME, YES?!
LABORATORY
OKAY, DOC-TOR?! YOU PAY THIS MONTH RENT NOW, I BET!
MAYBE MISS CHINA GET MAD NOW, YES?
BRECKE
LABORA
OKAY, OKAY, YOU THINKING THAT WAY?
I ALSO HAVE THINKING, TOO!
ULP!
THE DOOR

HALEEE...
SLAM!!
NO! WAIT! I--
DOCTOR BRECKEN-LIDGE!
PAY RENT!
I, I, I...
I'M S-SORRY !!

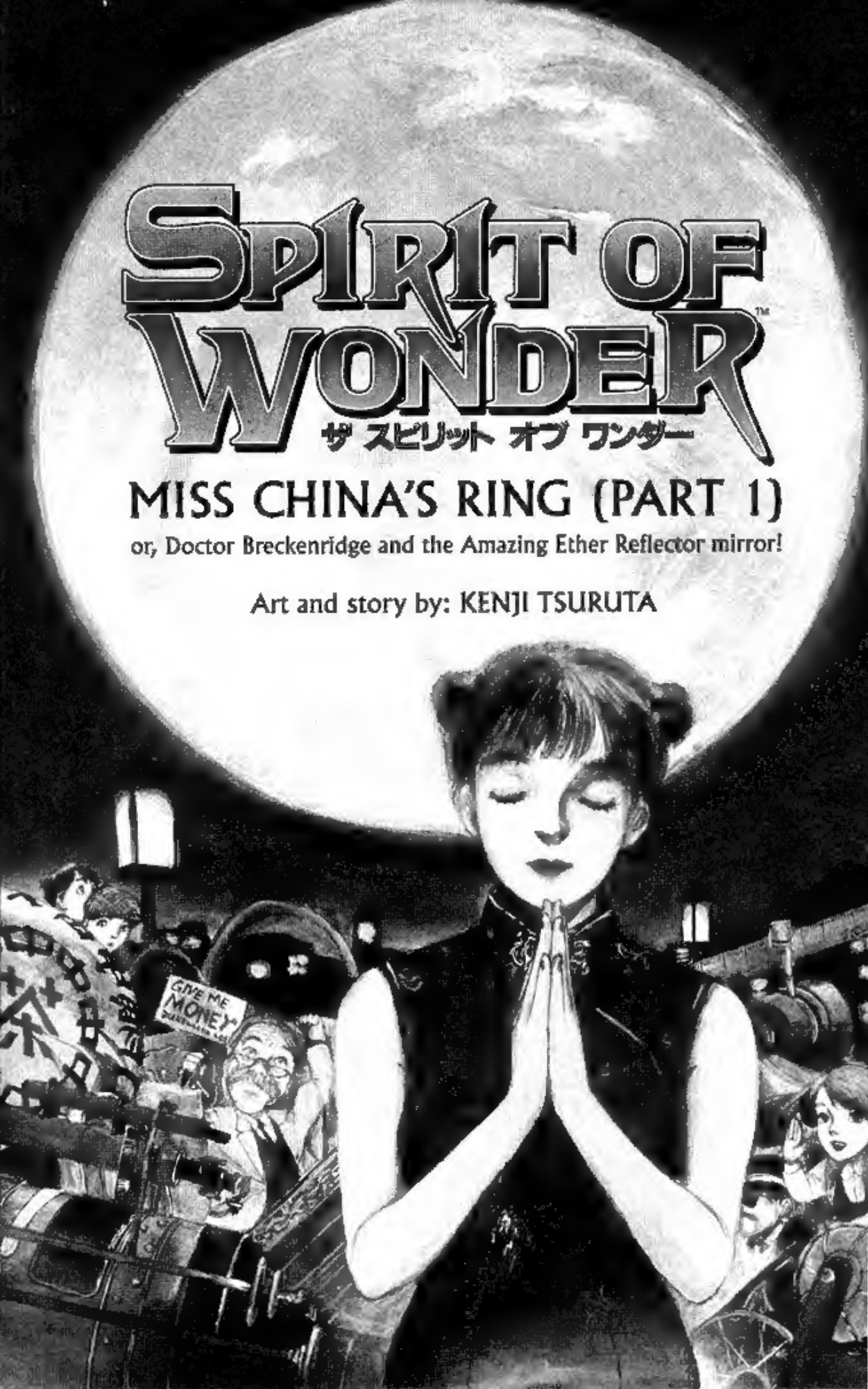
# SPIRIT OF WONDER™

ザ スピリット オブ ワンダー

## MISS CHINA'S RING (PART 1)

or, Doctor Breckenridge and the Amazing Ether Reflector mirror!

Art and story by: KENJI TSURUTA



ON THE WESTERN OUTSKIRTS OF THE SMALL HARBOR TOWN OF BRISTOL WAS A SMALL BAR AND RESTAURANT CALLED "TEN-KAI."
THE YOUNG WOMAN PROPRIETOR-- POPULAR AMONG THE SAILORS AND RIFFRAFF PATRONIZING THE SOMEWHAT RAMSHACKLE EATERY--
--WAS KNOWN SIMPLY AS "MISS CHINA." SHE WAS SAID TO HAVE INHERITED THE RESTAURANT AT THE TENDER AGE OF EIGHTEEN.
WE OPEN, COME IN!
AND ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF TEN-KAI LIVED A BOARDER, A CERTAIN PROFESSOR BRECKENRIDGE.
OH, JUST TWO?
DRINK OR DINNER?

Hmm?
DOCTOR BRECKEN-LIDGE! SOME CUSTOMER FOR YOU!!
THUD THUD THUD
ALWAYS HE SO CRAZY LOUD...
CHINA!! BRING US TEA AND SOME-THING TO EAT!! CHOP CHOP!!
OOOH, THAT MAN!!
BRECKENRIDGE LABORATORY
GIVE ME MONEY

GO TO THE MOON!
THE MOON, GENTLE-MEN!
KENRIDGE
RATORY
YES, THE DAY HAS COME THAT TRAVEL TO OUR SISTER ORB IS AT LAST A REALITY!
A REALITY, THAT IS, FOR THOSE WITH MY AMAZING INVENTION!
GO TO THE MOON!
YOU COULD ASK FOR NO BETTER ENDEAVOR IN WHICH TO INVEST YOUR FUNDS!
GO TO THE MOON!
DOC-TOR, I BRING--
OH?!
OH, MY!

I WAS JUST GETTING TO THE GOOD PART!
WAIT! GENTLE-MEN, HEAR ME OUT!
A SPECIAL BENEFIT FOR EARLY INVESTORS! I'LL THROW IN MISS CHINA HERE!
EEEK!
THIS... THIS ALWAYS HAPPENS...
DOCTOR BRECKEN-LIDGE.
YOU PAY BILL FOR TEA NOW?
.....

N-NOW, NOW... CHINA, MY DEAR!
TALK! YES, TALK AND REASON SETTLES ALL...
I WILL GIVE YOU A RARE AND SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO WITNESS MY ASTOUND-ING AND MYSTERIOUS NEWEST CREATION.
SO, LET'S SAY WE FORGET THE BILL... THIS TIME?
.....
REALLY YOU HAVE SUCH THING?
WHERE IS ASTOUNDING AND MYSTERIOUS THING?
EH ?!

HEH, HEH.. NOT BAD, EH, DEAR?
I CALL IT THE BRECKENRIDGE SPACE REFLECTION LENS.
SPACE REFLEX
IT REFLECTS A VOLUME OF SPACE ITSELF, CREATING AN OPPOSITE BUT IDENTICAL ANTI-SPACE! AN INCREDIBLE BREAKTHROUGH!
NOT MYSTERIOUS-- JUST LIKE MIRROR!
LOOK LIKE FAKE, YES?
YOU NO PAY CHINA RENT BUT YOU BUILDING THIS EXPENSIVE FAKE THING? THIS MAKE YOU HAPPY MAN?
ULP!
A FAKE?! DON'T BE ABSURD, YOUNG LADY! THIS IS A WORK OF GEN!--
GYAA!!
STOP! D-DON'T BREAK IT!
HYA HA
DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH IT COST?!

ECCENTRIC AS HE MIGHT BE, PROFESSOR BRECKEN-RIDGE STILL HAD HIS OWN FULL-TIME LAB ASSISTANT
AN ASSISTANT WHO, UN-FORTUNATELY, BORE THE ENTIRE FINANCES OF THE LABORATORY ON HIS YOUNG BACK HIS NAME-- JIM FLOYD.
HEY, IT'S MISS CHINA!
HI, MISS CHINA!!
OH. HI!
YOU FEEL GOOD TODAY?
HEY, WHERE YA GOING, MISS CHINA?
I GOING TO MARKET
YOU ALL WANT COME WITH ME. YES?

EH?
GILMO
THAT JIM .?
FLOWERS
MAGICAL TASTE FROM SOUTHERN ASIA
BIGAD
WHAT'S WRONG, MISS CHINA?

I'M HOME!
IT ABOUT TIME TOO!
CLOSED
EEP!
UH ER. HI.
YOU SO POOR BOY. WORKING SO LATE.
WELL, YEAH. BUT IT'S MY JOB..
SO MAYBE YOU PAY THIS MONTH RENT YES?
YES?!
WELL, I. ER...

HEY! WHAT YOU HIDING BEHIND YOU BACK?!
YOU SHOW ME, YOU BET!
G'NIGHT!
OH, YEAH
TO-MORROW'S YOUR BIRTHDAY RIGHT?
YOU NOT REMEMBER RENT BUT CHINA BIRTH-DAY? YOU STRANGE BOY
BRECKENRIDGE
LABORATORY
PERFECT! WITH THIS LITTLE GEM WE'RE UNSTOP-PABLE.
IT WAS PLENTY EXPENSIVE, DOC--WE BETTER NOT LET CHINA FIND OUT.
HERE I'VE ALREADY BEEN TO THE MOON, AND NO ONE WILL BELIEVE ME!
THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO CONVINCE THEM...

I COULD TRY ASKING LILY AT THE "FLOWER SHOP"
"WANT TO INVEST IN A SURE-FIRE WINNER?"
HMPH. WE'RE ALREADY IN DEBT UP TO OUR EARS THERE.

OH HI, JIM

DID YOU GET THAT LIST OF STUFF I ORDERED?
SURE DID.

IT'S KIND OF HEAVY, YOU KNOW?
BY Lily
BUT HERE IT ALL IS: ONE TEKTITE SLUG, URANIUM METALLIC HYDROGEN...

IN ALL, 450 GUINEAS. I'LL ADD IT TO YOUR ACCOUNT.

FLOWERS BY Lily
WHOA! THAT'S KINDA PRICY LILY! NO DISCOUNT FOR REGULAR CUSTOMERS?!
OH, SURE. AND WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU PAID FOR ANYTHING, Hmm?

ALMOST FORGOT THIS, TOO.
MACHINED AT FORTY DEGREES KELVIN I THREWIN THE G FT WRAP.
FLOWERS
BLAKE STREET
GOOD LUCK, JIM!
天 国
YA WANNA FIGHT BUD?! I'LL BEAT YER UGLY FACE IN!
YOU STOP NOW !!
I NO WANT FIGHT IN MY PLACE!

HEY! YOU NO LISTEN WHAT I SAY?!
PHUOK!
HYAAAA!!!
OH YEAH!! GO CHINA, GO!
LET 'IM HAVE IT!
phew.
JIM?
NO MORE CLEAN. OKAY? YOU HAVE DRINK WITH CHINA
ON MY HOUSE.

YOUR WORKING SO BUSY JIM?

JIM, YOU NOT LIKE WORKING IN TEN-KAI?
WORKING WITH CHINA?

NAW, IT'S NOT THAT BUSY
I SO BUSY ALL THE TIME. . I BUSY TO DEATH.

WELL THIS IS JUST TEMPORARY WORK FOR ME.
I'M REALLY AN INVENTOR, Y'KNOW.

YES CHINA THINK SO, TOO.
....
..

HEE HEE. I NOT MINDING!
COME ON-- ONE MORE! TODAY WE GET SO DRUNK, YOU BET!
TOMORROW TEN-KAI HAVE VACATION!

:hic:
WHOA, CHINA.. YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH
WHAT? WHAT THIS?
IT.. IT'S A P- PRESENT. FOR YOUR BIRTH- DAY--
YOU LEAVE CHINA ALONE, YOU HEARING ME?!
YOU HAVE MONEY TO BUY PRESENT, YOU PAY RENT, YES?!
YEOW!
JIM STUPID !!
:sniff:
JIM YOU TWO- TIMER
WH- WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

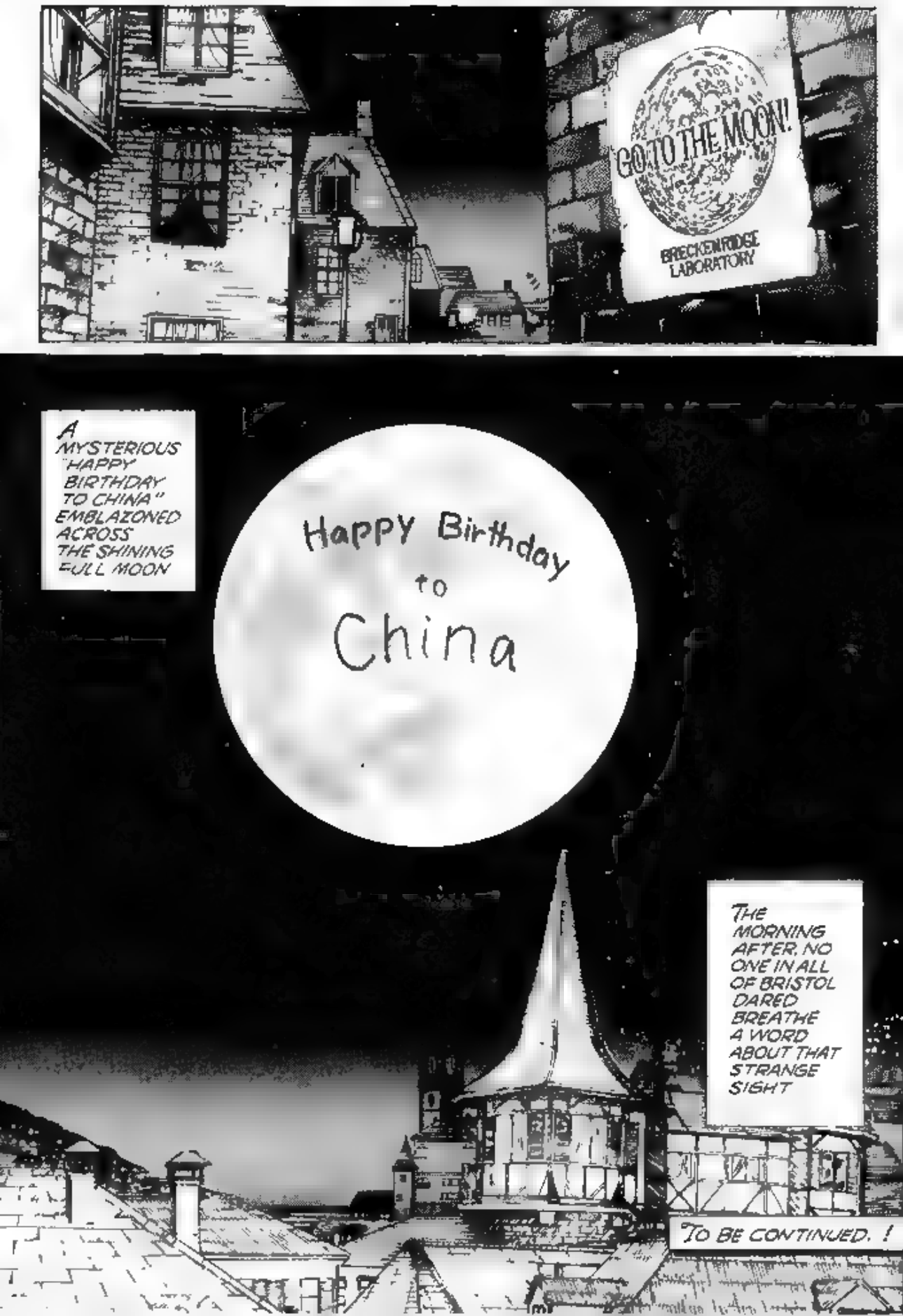
ZZZ
:hic:
UHHH
?? EH?!

YOU ALREADY WAKING UP, DOCTOR?
?
JIM ?

EH...?!
?!?!
Happy Birthday
to
China
WHA-?! WHAT THAT ?!
LETTERS ON MOON ?!
?!
OH, CHINA YOU GONE CRAZY! TOO MUCH DRINK LAST NIGHT!
OH, MY GOOD-NESS!
SOMETHING TROUBLING YOU, CHINA M'DEAR?
D-DOCTOR BRECKEN-LIDGE!

DOCTOR BRECKENLIDGE! THIS BE YOU DOING IT ?!
HEH-HEH-HEH.. SO YOU FINALLY NOTICED.
OH, MY GOODNESS! YOU REALLY MEAN YOU TRY TO GO ON MOON?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "TRY"...?!
Happy Birthday to Chi
I'VE ALREADY BEEN TO THE MOON!!
OTHER-WISE, HOW COULD I HAVE DONE THAT?!
CHINA, DIDN'T JIM GIVE YOU A RING MADE OUT OF MOON ROCK JUST LAST NIGHT?!
WHAT YOU TALK ABOUT?
HM?
AH-
AH-
AHHHH!?!

Happy Birthday to China


GO TO THE MOON!
BRECKENRIDGE LABORATORY
A MYSTERIOUS "HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO CHINA" EMBLAZONED ACROSS THE SHINING FULL MOON
Happy Birthday to China
THE MORNING AFTER, NO ONE IN ALL OF BRISTOL DARED BREATHE A WORD ABOUT THAT STRANGE SIGHT
TO BE CONTINUED. !

# *a s c e n s i o n*

Hisashi Sakaguchi, author/artist of *Version*, passed away on December 22, 1995, after a brief illness (heart problems).

He was born in Arakawa Ward, Tokyo, in 1946. He dropped out of high school at the age of seventeen and joined the Mushi Productions animation studio. Here he worked under the famous comics artist and animator Osamu Tezuka (known as the "God of Comics" in Japan). He worked his way up through the ranks, eventually becoming a respected animation director and producer. Some of the series he worked on include *Tetsuwan Atom* ("Astro Boy"), *Jungle Taitei* ("Kimba the White Lion"), and *Ribbon no Kishi* ("Princess Knight"). Mr. Sakaguchi had occasionally been tempted back to animation over the last 20 years, working on such films as *Hi no Tori 2772* ("Firebird 2772," which he co-directed), *Adachi ga Hara*, *Bander-book*, and *Fuu Moon*.

He left Mushi Productions in 1969 to become a full-time comics artist and illustrator. His debut story was *Osaraba Shiro!* ("Leave It Behind!"), which appeared in the magazine *Com*. SF and fantasy short stories were his specialty, but in 1984 he began *Ishi no Hana* ("Flowers of Stone") in *Monthly Comic Tom*, which was to run for over 1,400 pages. This award-winning, moving story of a young Yugoslavian partisan fighting against the Nazi invasion of his country during WWII has been widely acclaimed. It has even been reprinted in hardcover by the respected literary publishing house Shinchosha and appears in high-school and university libraries across Japan.

*Version*, published by Dark Horse and Studio Proteus, highlights his delicate line work and fabulous screen-tone technique, as well as his deep interest in biotechnology and computers. *Version* earned a great deal of critical praise during its run. SF author Paul DiFilippo praised it in *Boing Boing* magazine, saying it was a "must-have *ribofunk* manga." *Wired* also reviewed the series and commented that "Sakaguchi has created a truly original, artificial-intelligence story."

Other works of which he was especially proud include a three-volume set of his short stories, *Sakaguchi Hisashi Sakuhin-shuu*, from Futabasha Publishing, *Jyuni-shoku Monogatari* ("Twelve Color Tale") from Ushio Publishing, *Kigen Girushia* (The Greek Epoch), also from Futaba, and *Gekka Shawa* (Moonlight Shower) from Sanseisha.

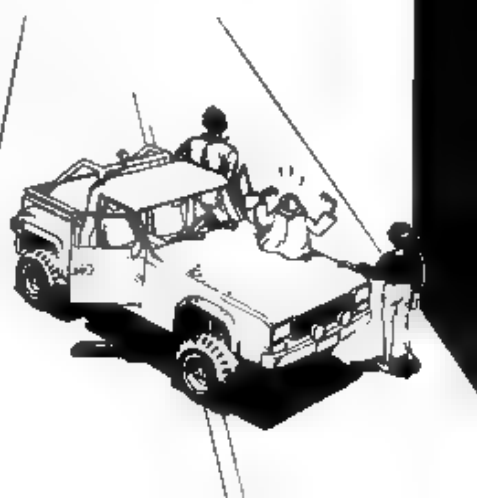
In late 1995 he completed *Akkanbe Ikkyu*, a biography of the famous Buddhist monk Ikkyu. Many people consider this to be one of his finest works and one of the best manga to be written in recent years. The artwork and storytelling is Sakaguchi at his finest, and I have personally seen copies of this work on the reference shelves of several other manga artists. It has been published to great acclaim in several languages, including French and Cantonese.

As a person, Sakaguchi was intelligent and extremely well read, with a dry sense of humor. He had the mildly eccentric habit of wearing *geta* (a type of wooden sandal) year round, essentially regardless of what else he was wearing. The first time I commented on it, he said his brother-in-law made them by hand for him, and would I like a pair? I thought it was nothing more than a casual offer that would soon be forgotten, so imagine my surprise when, a few weeks later, a beautiful set of size-12 *geta* arrived, hand-carved out of a single block of wood.

It is truly a shame that we were unable to complete the series *Version* (an innocent victim of the chaos in the market following Marvel's switch to self-distribution), as the final volume moves like the wind and has a completely unexpected and wonderful ending. Perhaps someday the English-language market for Sakaguchi's brand of thoughtful and humane stories will be large enough for us to complete *Version* and maybe even publish *Ishi no Hana* or *Akkanbe Ikkyu*.

Sakaguchi's death at the tragically early age of 49 is a terrible loss for his family and friends and for the world of comics. He will be missed by all who knew him or read his work.

Toren Smith
(with thanks to Osamu Takeo of Ushio Shuppansha, and the editorial division of *Comic Afternoon* at Kodansha)



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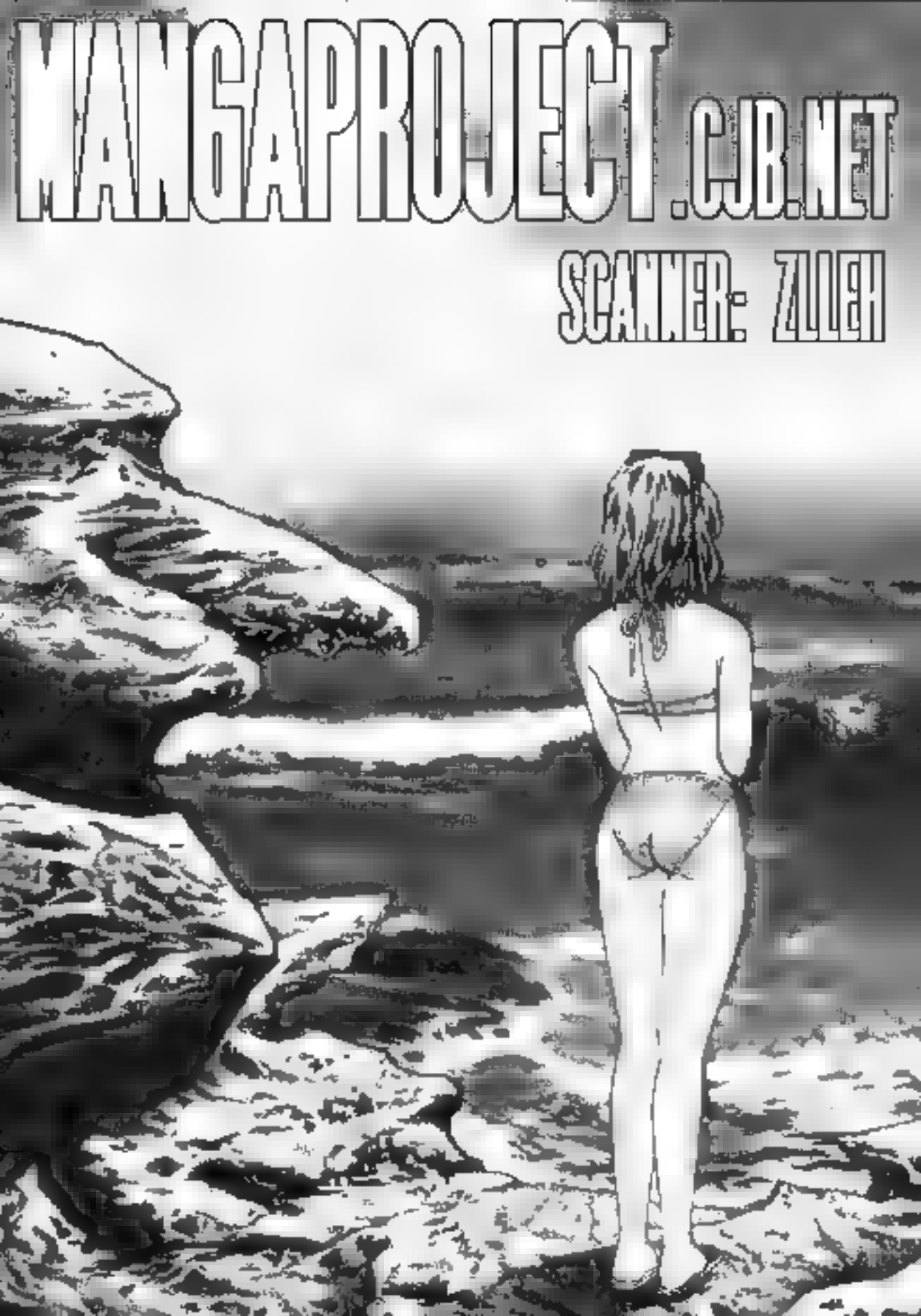

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HEE YAAH!
OWW!!
OW OW OW!
YOU BAD, YOU!

CLOSED

GOOD MORNING, CHINA!

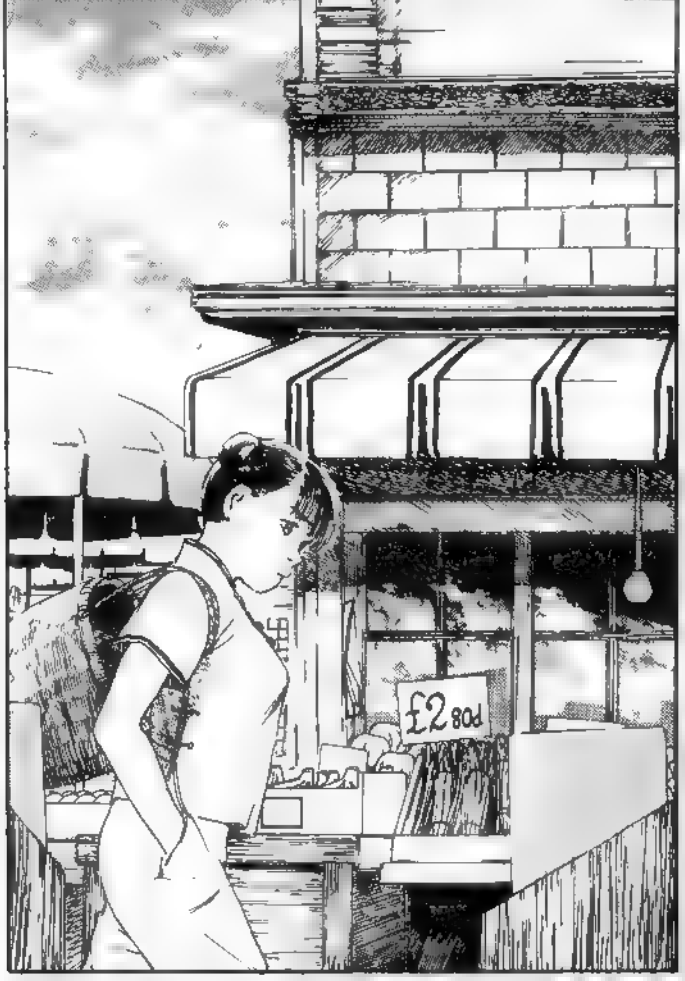
AH, THE LOVELY MISS CHINA! WORKING HARD THIS MORNING?

?

SEEMS THE LITTLE LADY'S UPSET.

WHATEVER DID YOU DO LAST NIGHT, JIM, MY BOY, *Hmm?*

SO... READ IT TO ME, JIM. HEH-HEH... MUST BE QUITE A HEADLINE!
CHRONICLE
DAILY NEWS
THE EXPLOITS OF "AURORA"
MISS ELEANOR NAMBU'S SEVEN ADVENTURES
LAND OF CONFUSION
EARTH
PERHAPS "MYSTERIOUS WRITING ON THE MOON"!
"THE WORK OF THAT GENIUS SCIENTIST, PROFESSOR BRECKEN-RIDGE...
Happy Birthday to China
"...OR A MESSAGE FROM MOON MEN?"!
JUST A LITTLE JOKE THERE, SON!
THERE'S NOTHING, PROFES-SOR!
WHAT ?!
SEE FOR YOURSELF-- THE CHRONICLE, THE DAIBA, THE POST... NOT A PEEP ABOUT IT!
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!!
YOU SHOW ME ONE PERSON WHO WOULDN'T CALL THIS THE STORY OF THE CENTURY!!
GUESS I CAN SHOW YOU LOTS, HUH?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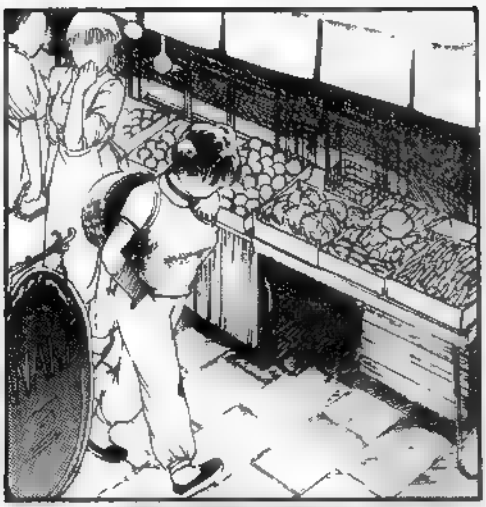
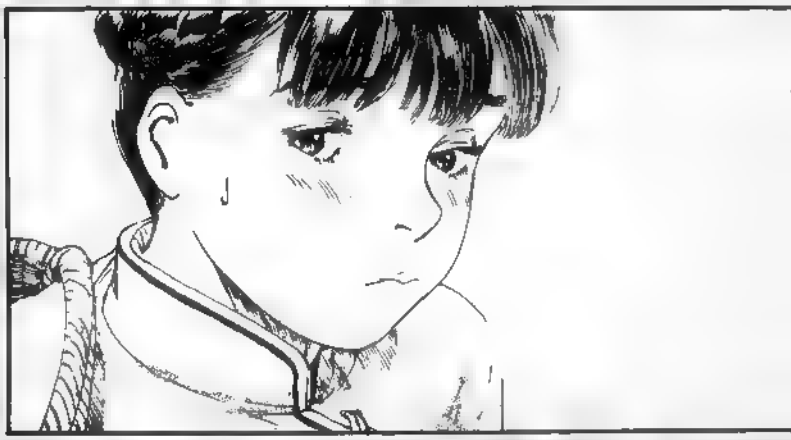
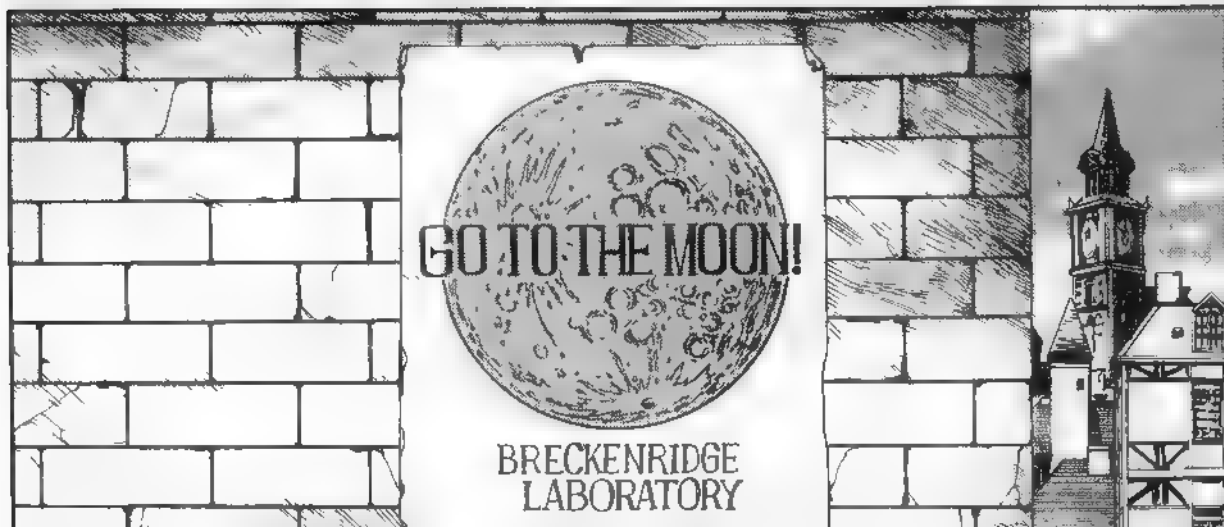
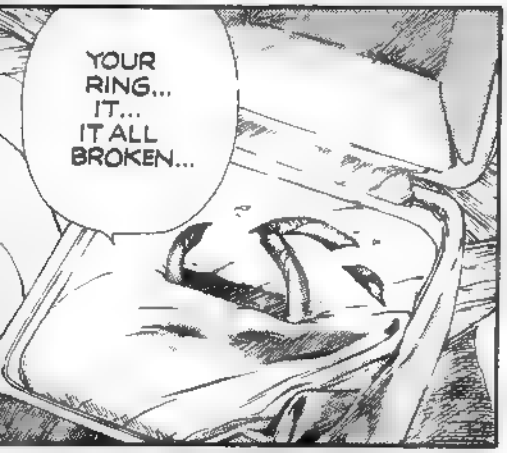




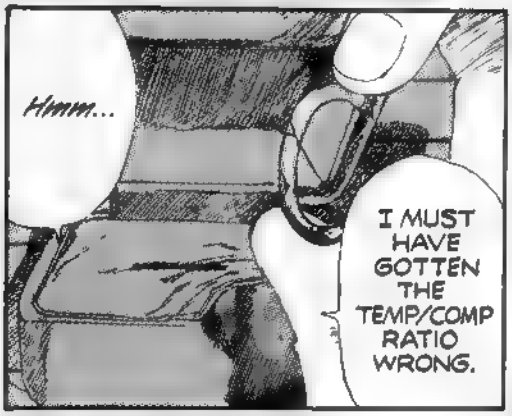

GO TO THE MOON!
BRECKENRIDGE
LABORATORY

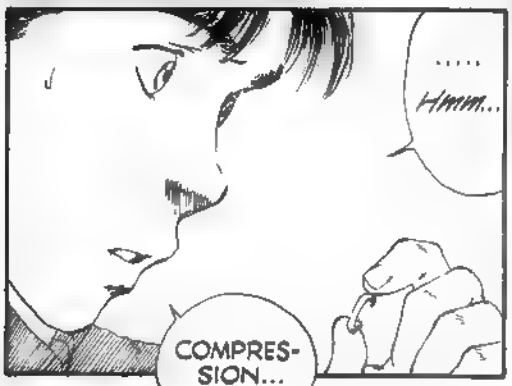
STOP, THIEF !!
SOMEONE STOP THAT MAN!
WHAT THIS?
YOU LEAVE TO CHINA, I STOP HIM!
HM?
MORNING
HEY! ISN'T THAT--
HAIEE YAAH!!
CHINA !!
FIRST AID

OUCH! THAT HURT!
I SAID, STAY STILL !!
BOY, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU, CHINA-- LETTING SOME PICKPOCKET BEAT YOU UP, I MEAN.
?!?
CHINA...?


YOUR RING... IT... IT ALL BROKEN...

I SO SORRY.
CHINA SO, SO SORRY, JIM.


Hmm...
I MUST HAVE GOTTEN THE TEMP/COMP RATIO WRONG.


.....
Hmm...
COMPRES-SION...

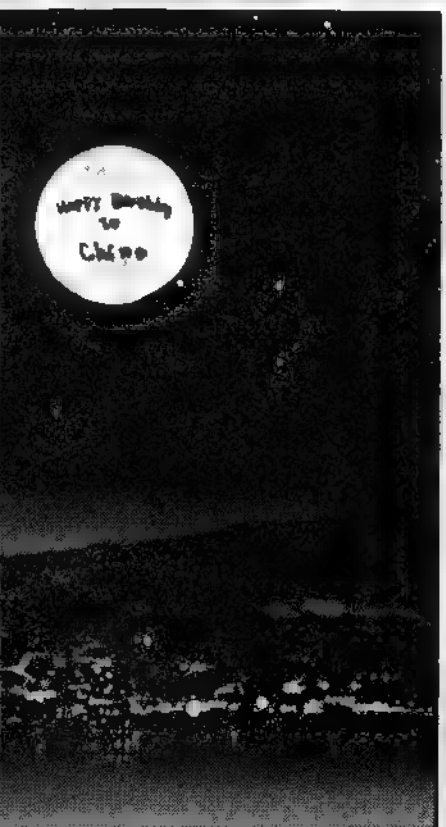
SAY, CHINA...
...IF I GIVE YOU ANOTHER RING, WILL YOU ACCEPT IT THIS TIME?

EH?!
BUT...
BUT...
....!
I... I NOT SURE... WH- WHAT KIND OF RING?
I'LL SEE YOU ON THE BEACH BELOW THE CLIFF. TEN TONIGHT, OKAY?
LET'S TAKE A TRIP TO THE MOON... TO-GETHER!
PROFESSOR!
HEY, PROFES-SOR!
TEN O'CLOCK TO-NIGHT...
COULD THIS THING BE "DATE"...?!
BRECKENRIDGE LABORATORY
GIVE ME
WHAT ?! ?!?!

HRMM. THE PROBLEM IS, HOW DO WE DO IT?
YOU'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT JUST ANY OLD MASS.
LOOK HERE, BOY.. ARE YOU SERIOUS ?
OF COURSE I AM. IT'LL BE A TREMENDOUS DEMONSTRATION, ONE THAT WILL SPREAD THE FAME OF DR. BRECKENRIDGE AROUND THE WORLD.
FAME? MY FAME?!
REMEMBER THAT GRAVITY-COMPRESSION DEVICE I BUILT WAY BACK WHEN? WE CAN USE THAT.
GRAVITY PRE
BY JOVE! OF COURSE! THE "FLOYD ONE"!
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHERE DID WE STORE THAT OLD THING?
Hmm. GOOD QUES-TION.
WHAM
KRASH
DON'T JUST STAND THERE, BOY! LOOK FOR IT!

WHDD
BAM
FIRST AID
Happy Birthday
to
China

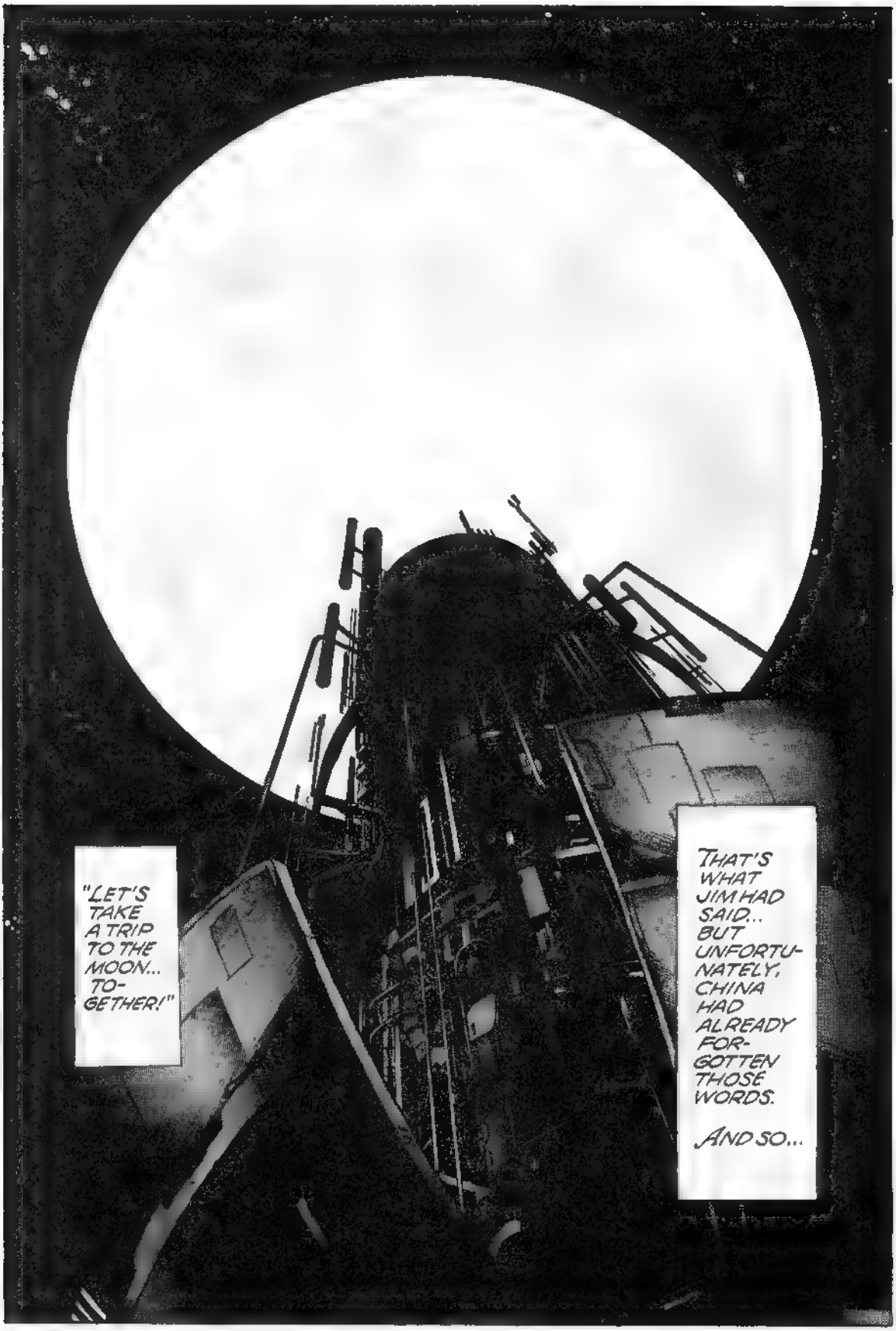
Happy Birthday
to
Chi


Happy Birthday to Chi??

HI, CHINA!
YOU LATE, YES?!

SORRY, SORRY! I WAS, uh, LOOKING FOR SOME-THING.
??

THERE YOU ARE, JIM!
FLOYD!
I FINALLY FOUND THE DAD-BLASTED GISMO! IT WAS IN THE RESTAURANT STORE-ROOM!
YOU THINK IT'LL STILL WORK?
YOU! WHY YOU COMING HERE ?!
DON'T YOU BE BOTHER TO ME AND JIM!
WELL, WHAT'S THIS? MISS CHINA?
AND ALL DRESSED UP, TOO!
DOCTOR BRECKEN--
PHHFF!
=koff=
=koff=
STUPID JIM! STUPID, STUPID JIM!

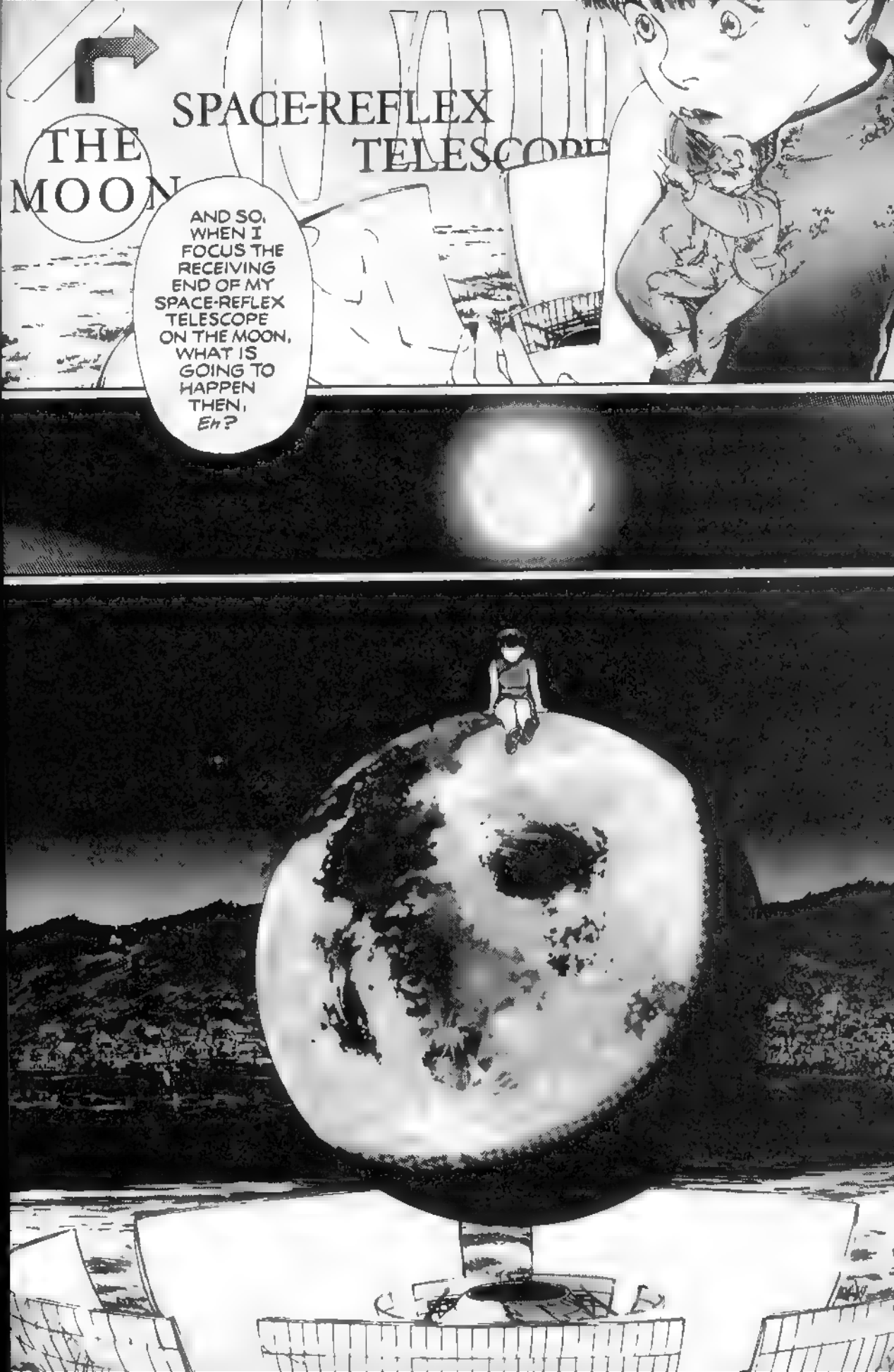

"LET'S TAKE A TRIP TO THE MOON... TO-GETHER!"
THAT'S WHAT JIM HAD SAID... BUT UNFORTU-NATELY, CHINA HAD ALREADY FOR-GOTTEN THOSE WORDS.
AND SO...

OUCH!
YOW!
WHOA!
天国
CHINESE
RESTAURA
CHINA HATE JIM AND DOCTOR BRECKEN-LIDGE! HATE SO MUCH!
THERE, THERE, THERE! CALM DOWN, MISS CHINA!
GOD DAMN-ING YOU!
NOW, CHINA! IS THAT ANY WAY TO TALK WHEN WE'RE OFFERING YOU A FREE TRIP... TO THE MOON?!
TO... MOON?
INDEED-- BY WAY OF THIS FINE "SPACE REFLEX" TELE-SCOPE!
FLOOD

Happy Birthday
to
China
FLOYD 1

MY DEAR CHINA!
HEH HEH HEH!
AHEM... SO YOU ARE NOT ACQUAINTED WITH THE BRECKEN-RIDGE SPACE-REFLEX TELESCOPE?
THEN ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN-- UNTIL NOW, ALL TELE-SCOPES HAVE MERELY MAGNIFIED AN OPTICAL IMAGE, BUT I...
...I HAVE USED MY UNLIMITED GENIUS TO PERFECT THE WORLD'S FIRST TELESCOPE UTILIZING THE PRINCIPLE OF BRECKEN-RIDGIAN SPACE REFLEC-TIVISM!
YES, AND THIS YOU SEE BEFORE YOU IS THE MIRACULOUS DEVICE ITSELF... THE BRECKEN-RIDGE SPACE-REFLEX TELE-SCOPE!
IMPRES-SIVE, ISN'T IT?
.....
PER-HAPS I WAS TALKING TOO FAST...?
SPACE REFLEX
CHINA:A
TELES
CHINA:A'
THEN LET ME PERFORM A SMALL DEMONSTRA-TION.
FIRST, I FOCUS MY TELESCOPE ON YOU, THE "LITTLE MISS CHINA"...

AIYAH!
AND NOTE THAT WHEN I DO THIS HERE...
EEK!
EEK!
YOU STOP
NOW DO YOU UNDER-STAND, MY DEAR MISS CHINA?
I UNDER-STANDING TOO MUCH! YOU STOP NOW!
BRECKEN
BRIDGE


THE MOON
SPACE-REFLEX TELESCOPE
AND SO, WHEN I FOCUS THE RECEIVING END OF MY SPACE-REFLEX TELESCOPE ON THE MOON, WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN THEN, Eh?

Happy Birthday to China

YOUR MOON-ROCK RING...

.....

I SO, SO SORRY IT BROKEN.

BUT I VERY HAPPY YOU GIVE ME.

Happy Birthday to Chino

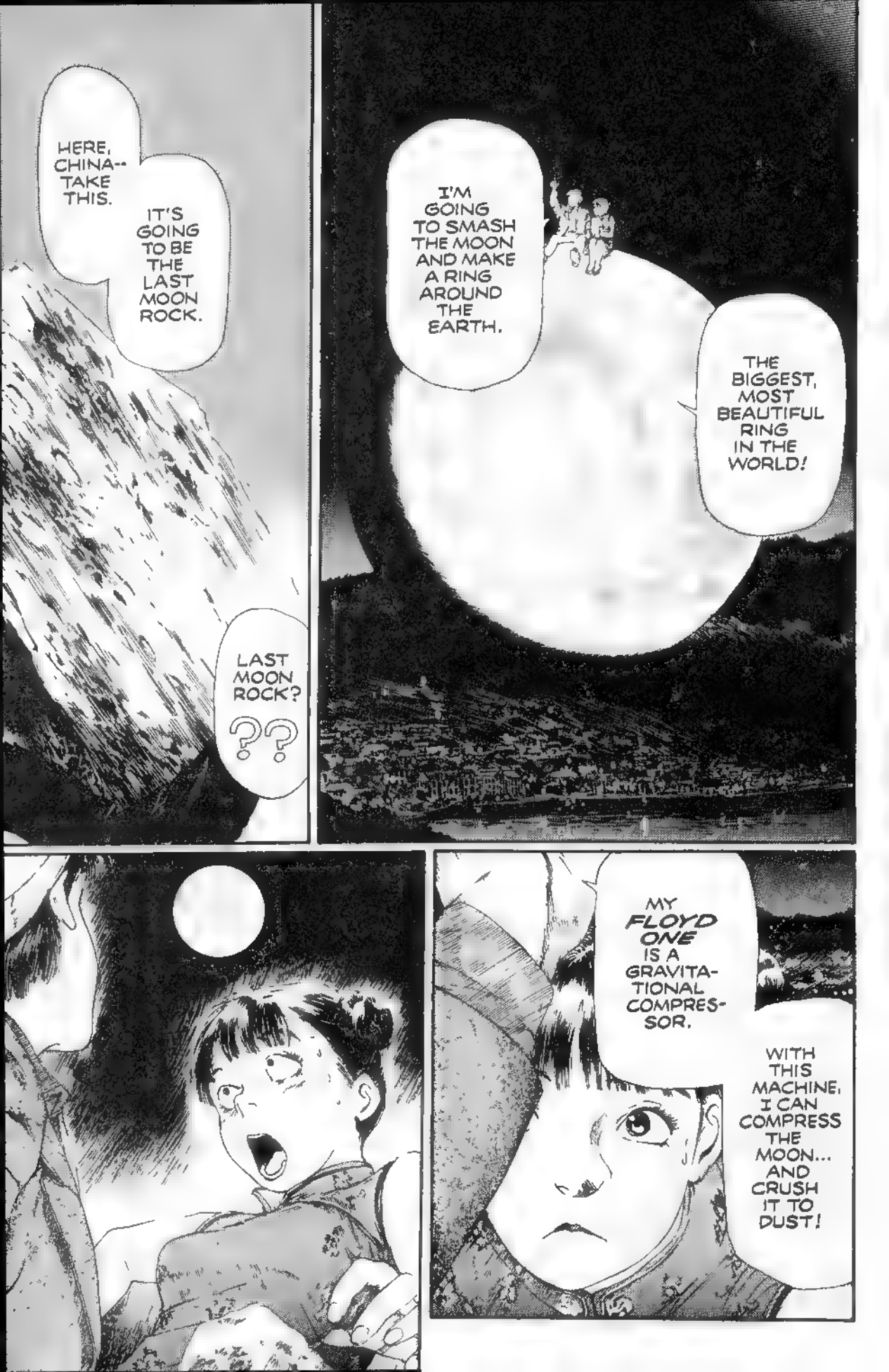
AW, I CAN ALWAYS MAKE YOU ANOTHER.

AFTER ALL, IT'S JUST A ROCK.

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU WRITING?

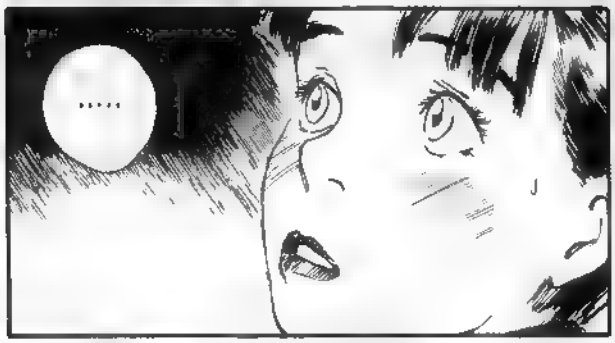
HEE HEE... CHINA NOT TELLING!

IT SECRET, YOU BET!

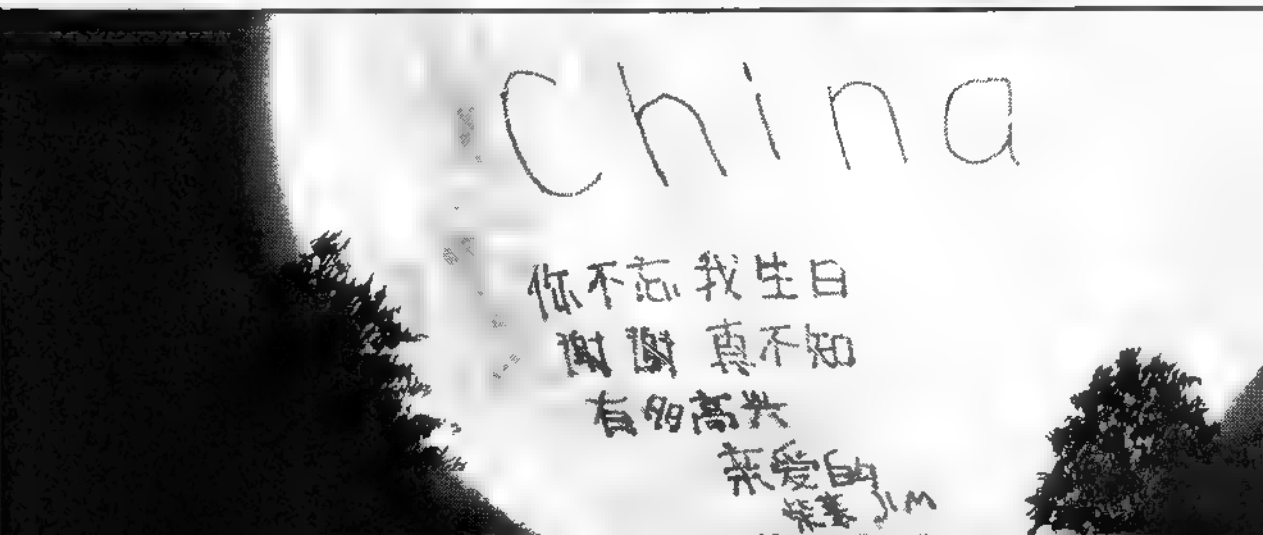

HERE, CHINA-- TAKE THIS.
IT'S GOING TO BE THE LAST MOON ROCK.
LAST MOON ROCK?
??
I'M GOING TO SMASH THE MOON AND MAKE A RING AROUND THE EARTH.
THE BIGGEST, MOST BEAUTIFUL RING IN THE WORLD!
MY FLOYD ONE IS A GRAVITA-TIONAL COMPRES-SOR.
WITH THIS MACHINE, I CAN COMPRESS THE MOON... AND CRUSH IT TO DUST!

.....
....!

WILL YOU ACCEPT THIS RING FROM ME, CHINA?


.....

PROFES-SOR! WE'RE COMING DOWN NOW!
DGE LA
÷yawnn÷
AND ABOUT TIME, TOO!


China
你不忘我生日
謝謝 真不知
有何高興
親愛的

FLOYD1
ALL RIGHT, JIM! THE TIME HAS COME!
LADIES AND GENTLE-MEN!!
...AND MISS CHINA!
I SHALL NOW SHOW THE ENTIRE WORLD THE FRUIT OF MY MAG-NIFICENT GENIUS!!
GRAVITY COMPRES-SOR FLOYD ONE--
--SWITCH ON!!
AND NOW...!!
GREAT SCOTT!
BOOM
BOOM

COME ON, MY LOVELY FLOYD ONE!
NEVER GIVE UP! EVEN UNTO DEATH!!
.....
CON-FOUNDED, USE-LESS PIECE OF JUNK!
VERY WELL, THEN!! WE'LL HAVE TO USE MISS CHINA'S INSCRUTABLE ORIENTAL POWERS!
CHINA!
DO THIS FOR ME... FOR US! JUST ONE SMALL KICK!
....

WILL YOU ALWAYS HELP IN MY TENKAI ?

I'LL HELP, I'LL HELP!!

YOU NOT COMPLAIN WHEN IT TIME TO WASHING DISHES ?!

NOT A WORD!

AND... YOU NEVER, ***NEVER*** BE TWO-TIMER...?!

UH... EH?

O.K.!!

YOU BE LEAVING ALL TO ME!

CHINA...?

Happy Birthday

China

YAHH!!

HALEEEE...

China

THIS REALLY SO ASTOUNDING... SO MYSTERIOUS...

HAIEEEEE...

YAHHH!!

NEXT ISSUE: "THE FLIGHT OF FLOYD TWO"!

**Welcome to issue two of Spirit of Wonder!. For those of you who are wondering what China wrote on the moon, wonder no more. China wrote, "You didn't forget my birthday. Thank you! You don't know how happy I am. I love you, Jim!"**

**For your further reading enjoyment, here's an interview Dana Lewis of Studio Proteus conducted with Spirit of Wonder creator Kenji Tsuruta:**

Kenji Tsuruta isn't out for fame and fortune. If he was, he might be just a mite more productive. But what the creator of the warm and whimsical **Spirit of Wonder** likes doing best is trying to capture on paper a world that's unfolding quietly inside his own head, and if it takes him half a year or more to turn out a single story, that's fine by him. It's also fine by readers in Japan, who eagerly await the next, unpredictable appearance of his short-tempered, spunky heroine, Miss China, and her two irresponsible borders, the eccentric genius Professor Breckenridge and his long-suffering assistant Jim. They may not always pay their rent on time, but they'll do anything to try to please China, including carving a birthday greeting into the very surface of the moon.

**Studio Proteus:** At first glance, it's a classic cast of characters — the mad scientist, the handsome young swain, and the beautiful damsel. Except that the damsel is a Chinese martial-arts expert with an attitude.

**Tsuruta:** I've always had this longing for the world of 1950s American "sci-fi" really. It's sort of my own style of nostalgia. It's not as if I was always reading. I actually was the kind of kid who didn't read much at all. But I did like Heinlein, his early work. It was translated into Japanese when I was growing up in special, simplified texts for children, and that's what left a lasting impression on me.

**Studio Proteus:** The professor keeps coming up with these crazy machines, but they work.

**Tsuruta:** I've always been attracted to things that are totally off the wall. I guess you could say that, since I really don't know that much about science, I was able to make that kind of leap. Back before the big-bang theory or talk of black holes, people would have thought you were crazy to suggest there was a giant, black hole at the center of the galaxy eating stars. That's the sort of old "sci-fi" feel that I've tried to recreate.

**Studio Proteus:** How do you come up with a story?

**Tsuruta:** Well, at the first stage I spend a lot of time reading, a lot of time just wandering around, suddenly hopping on trains and taking trips. And while all that's going on, I'm working a bit on the manuscript, a little bit here and there. And then, all at once, I'll get a clear image in my mind, and I'm totally into the work. In the end, you have to lock yourself up and draw. But that gestation time can be very long, and it's important for me to like what I've done. I'm not much of a businessman! (laughs)

**Studio Proteus:** How did you arrive at your style?

**Tsuruta:** I'm not sure I really did. One day it was just sort of there. I have an image in my head that I want to draw. The image is very clear, and I try to do a life drawing of it. Except that it's not really there. I started drawing comics when I was twenty. For three years I did nothing but draw. And when I came out of it, the style was there. Originally, I'd wanted to be a photographer. In college I chose an engineering track — optical science. I thought I should know how a camera worked if I was going to use one to take pictures. But in the end, I decided I didn't have a photographer's eye. And when I was searching for something else to do, I stumbled across a really fine manga, **Sabertooth Tiger** by Yukinobu Hoshino*. And I thought, "I'd like to try this."

**Studio Proteus:** Hoshino writes really hard SF.

**Tsuruta:** Yes. Somehow, what I'd read when I was little and what I had drawn as a kid came together. After three years, I started publishing in fan magazines, and I went to work as an assistant for various cartoonists. Eventually, I did the short story that became my debut work. I took the train from Tokyo down to the ocean at Odawara. The line went through all these rice paddies, and I thought to myself, "Wouldn't it be interesting if there was a train track running through the ocean?" And that's how I came up with that story, which is all about a world where the land is sinking slowly into the sea. I wanted to write a story where I could use that image. So, I spin out my stories based on pictures that I still haven't drawn, and sometimes the story turns out not to have a place for the image that started it.

**Studio Proteus:** So what was the image for Miss China in **Spirit of Wonder**?

**Tsuruta:** The first idea was for a sort of scientific Sherlock Holmes, a private investigator who would use science to solve all the cases. He was going to have a

secretary who always wore Chinese "cheongsam" dresses. The story was going to be set in England, and I'd heard there was a London Chinatown. But that's not how it turned out. At the time, I wasn't making any money, and I couldn't pay my rent. I gave my landlord a lot of trouble. And somehow the secretary character turned into a landlord character, who's always trying to get the Professor and Jim to pay their rent.

**Studio Proteus:** Tell me more about Miss China. Who is she?

**Tsuruta:** She's like a daughter. She's this daughter I can't control. When I first drew her, I never thought she'd act like this. You know, I'd heard people talk about how characters in their books and comics would take on a life of their own, but I frankly didn't believe it. I was sure I could control my characters. But China insists on having her own way, and I have to come up with stories that she can be comfortable in. The professor is a little more manageable. He'll listen to me, and he helps me keep China under control. People say that I remind them of the professor myself.

**Studio Proteus:** The **Spirit of Wonder: Miss China's Ring** video* already has quite a few followers in the United States. Are you concerned that readers will already have an image of China based on the OVA?

**Tsuruta:** Actually, I'm not worried about that. When you work on a manga yourself, you get too close to your own characters. You can't see the forest for the trees. When I saw the video for the first time, I thought, yes, that's right. That's how they really would look from the outside. Now I sort of wished I could have directed it myself. It was almost too true to the original; I'd have liked a second chance to fix my mistakes!

**Studio Proteus:** A lot goes unsaid in **Spirit of Wonder**.

**Tsuruta:** I try not to let the words take charge. Japanese manga readers rely too much on the words; they just flip through, reading the balloons and following the plot. I want people to look at the art. I've tried to make a comic where you have to read the art in order to understand the story. The pictures are a code for deciphering the story. It's all there in my head, but I don't think it's necessary to put everything down on paper.

**Studio Proteus:** Who are your influences?

**Tsuruta:** I feel very influenced by Tetsuya Chiba. The style is different, of course, but I used to read and reread his work. I feel like it's part of me. When I go back and read old comics, I feel recharged. When I read contemporary comics, I feel competitive. Instead of enjoying them, I'm always thinking, "I would have done it this way," or, "I'd do this part differently." But with the older comics, the more they're something I used to love reading when I was little, the more positive my attitude. I think, "Yes, I want to create something like this myself."

**Studio Proteus:** In the China stories, the Professor's rooms are a total mess. Let me guess...

**Tsuruta:** They're like mine. My place is awful. When I moved, the movers said I had three times as much stuff as most people would have in the same space. Mostly, it's books

**Nonoguchi (Tsuruta's editor):** Actually, you can't see the floor from the front door of his work room to his desk. There's a sort of path there. Like an animal trail in the woods.

**Studio Proteus:** How long do you spend on a story?

**Tsuruta:** Half a year? Maybe more. I draw and erase, draw and erase. When I'm drawing, my psychological state is like this spiral. I have the image in my mind that I want, and I circle around and around it, getting a little closer every time. I don't have any assistants. The ones I had all went on and became full-time cartoonists in their own right.

**Studio Proteus:** I heard you've made your own CD-ROM.

**Tsuruta:** Yes. It has all my cover art, book illustrations, and other non-manga work. There's also a 40-second clip from the **Spirit of Wonder** animation. I like to try my hand at lots of different things. Manga take a long time to write; you're locked up there with your work. Well, when I'm in there, locked into drawing a comic, I start wishing I could be doing something else. This was a good chance to try it. I produced it and directed it — just me and the programmer. It's totally different from making manga, as different as writing a novel and making a movie. In the future, I'd like to be able to do both.

**Studio Proteus:** What would you like to do next?

**Tsuruta:** Actually, I've always wanted to do a baseball comic. But there's a lot of **Spirit of Wonder** left in me yet.

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lettering and
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PRINTED IN CANADA

# THE FLIGHT OF FLOYD 2

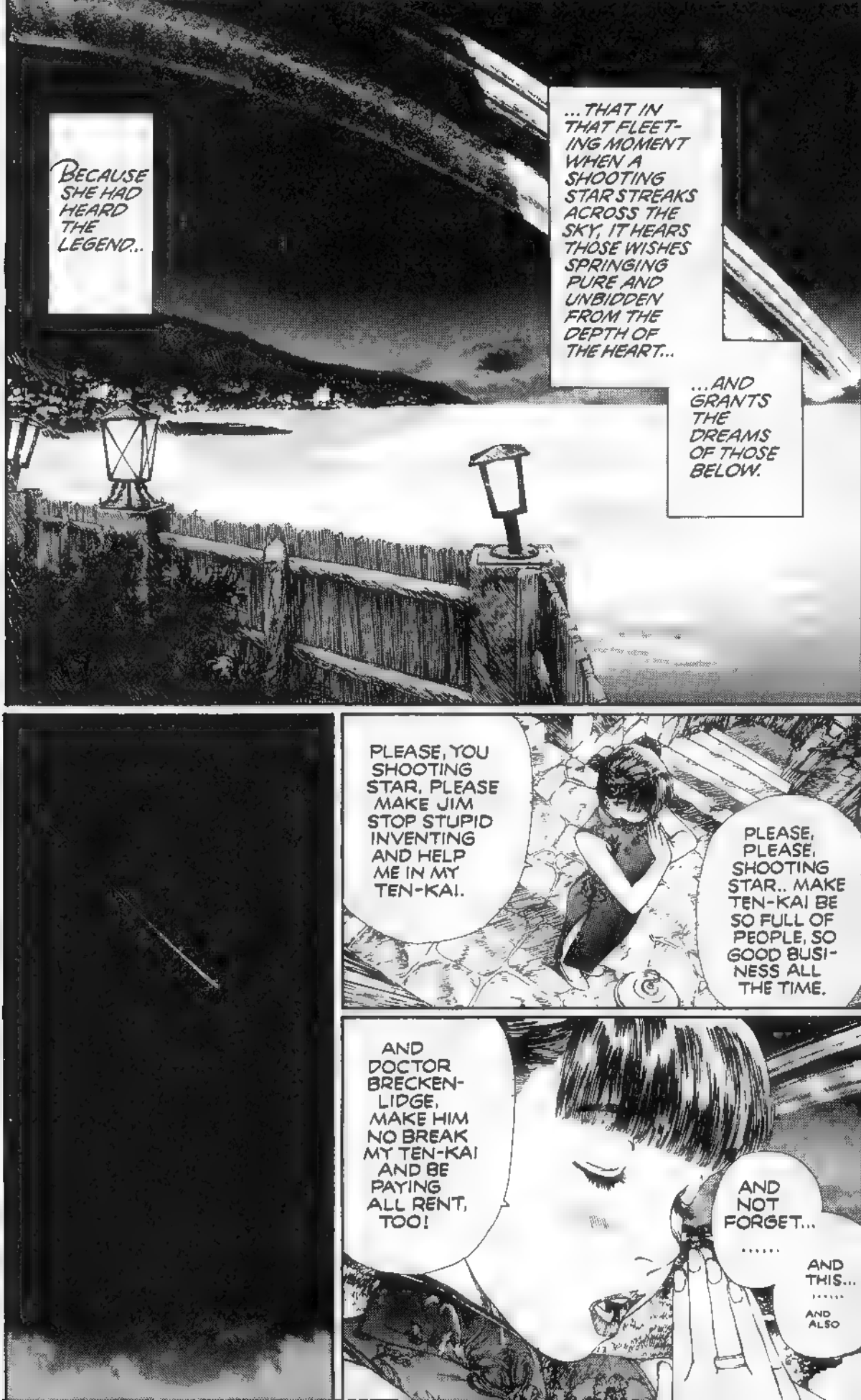
天回
CHINESE RESTAURANT
JIM, WHY YOU SO LATE TODAY...?
CHINA! YOUNG MISS CHINA!
CLOSED
CLOSED
WHAT YOU BE WANTING, DOCTOR BRECKEN-LIDGE?
A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME, MY DEAR?

HEH, HEH... DEAR CHINA!
HAVE YOU NO DESIRE TO BEHOLD ONE OF THE MYSTERIES OF THE UNIVERSE?!
FOR THE PALTRY SUM OF BUT ONE MONTH'S RENT, AN EXCLUSIVE VIEWING!
AHHH, I SEE DOUBT IN YOUR FAIR EYES!
TA-DAHHH!?
EEK!
THIS IS NO ORDINARY BROOM, MY DEAR!
YES-- THAT MY BROOM.
SO... THAT'S HOW IT'S TO BE... ALL THOSE YEARS OF GRUELING RESEARCH...
...AND YET SHE HAS NO INTEREST IN A BROOM THAT...
FLIES?
WELL, IF YOU INSIST... HOP ON BOARD, CHINA!
YOU MAY... ahem... REIM-BURSE ME UPON YOUR RETURN...
CHINA SIT THIS WAY, DOCTOR?

HM?
EEK?!
NYAHAHA!
AHHH!
EH?! OH DEAR!!
?!?!
AIEE!

OW OW OWW !!
SKRAK
TUT, TUT, TUT... ANOTHER FAILURE, IT SEEMS...
WHAT YOU MEAN, "SEEM," YOU BAD DOCTOR! WHAT YOU DO TO TEN-KAI ROOF?!
YES, YES... AN INTERESTING PROBLEM... THE GRAVITATIONAL DISRUPTION FIELD...
DOCTOR BRECKENRIDGE!!!
WILL YOU PEOPLE PLEASE SHUT THE HELL UP DOWN THERE?!
EH?!

HOW DO YOU IDIOTS EXPECT ME TO CONCENTRATE UP HERE?!
I'M DOING A VERY DIFFICULT CALCULATION! DO YOU MIND?!
OH...
SORRY, JIM.
HE HOME ALREADY?!
HMPH... WHAT A WAY TO TREAT A GENIUS!
AND SO IT WAS THAT VERY EVENING THAT OUR STORY BEGAN.
THAT NIGHT AS EVERY NIGHT, CHINA CAST HER EYES TO THE DARKENED SKY.
AND WHY DID SHE DO THAT...?


BECAUSE SHE HAD HEARD THE LEGEND..
...THAT IN THAT FLEET-ING MOMENT WHEN A SHOOTING STAR STREAKS ACROSS THE SKY, IT HEARS THOSE WISHES SPRINGING PURE AND UNBIDDEN FROM THE DEPTH OF THE HEART...
...AND GRANTS THE DREAMS OF THOSE BELOW.
PLEASE, YOU SHOOTING STAR, PLEASE MAKE JIM STOP STUPID INVENTING AND HELP ME IN MY TEN-KAI.
PLEASE, PLEASE, SHOOTING STAR.. MAKE TEN-KAI BE SO FULL OF PEOPLE, SO GOOD BUSI-NESS ALL THE TIME.
AND DOCTOR BRECKEN-LIDGE, MAKE HIM NO BREAK MY TEN-KAI AND BE PAYING ALL RENT, TOO!
AND NOT FORGET...
.....
AND THIS...
.....
AND ALSO

GEE, CHINA... WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP SO LATE?
....
....
...AND NUMBER ONE, MAKE ALL MY FRIEND HEALTHY AND HAPPY!
AMEN!
CHINA OUT HERE EVERY NIGHT!
I HAVE SO, SO MANY THINGS I WANTING.
SO CHINA ASKING SHOOTING STAR EVERY NIGHT.

HUH... NO KIDDING.
BUT AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO MAKE YOUR WISH BEFORE THE SHOOTING STAR GOES OUT?
W- W- WHAT ?!
AIYAA! REALLY THAT THE WAY? REALLY ?!
WELL, UH... THAT'S THE WAY I HEARD IT...
OH! THIS SO TERRIBL ALL MY ASKING IT NO GOOD NEVER.
....
....
CHINA DREAM ALL NO GOOD...
STAR NEVER LISTEN CHINA...

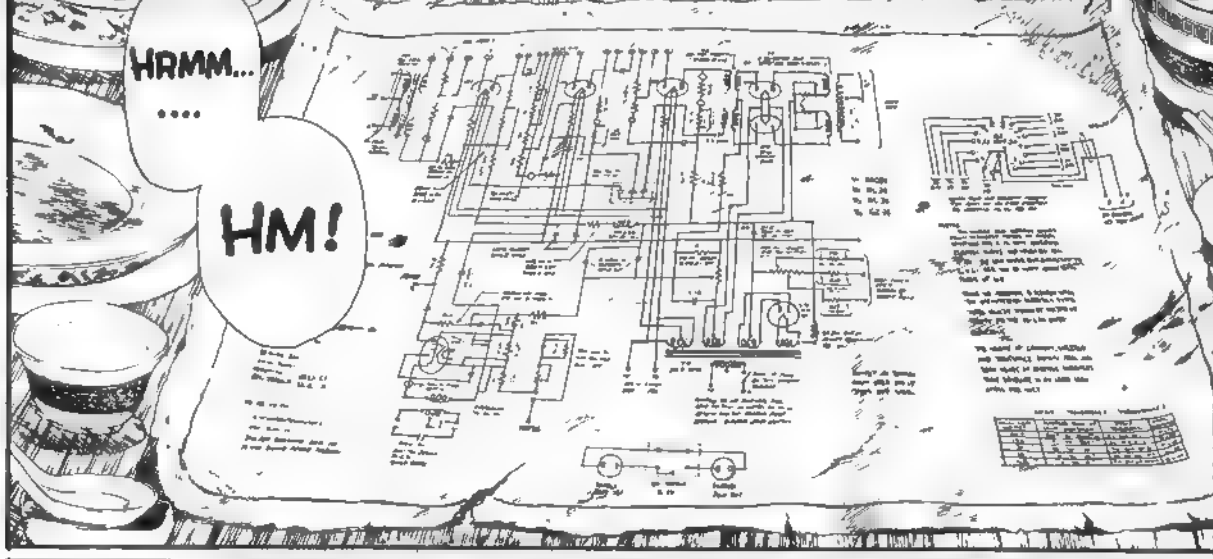
HA HA! THAT'S SO SILLY!
IT'S JUST A RIDICULOUS SUPERSTITION AND YOU KNOW IT, JIM.
BUT YOU STILL WANT YOUR PRECIOUS LITTLE CHINA TO HAVE HER DREAMS.
YOU'RE SO CUTE, JIM... I LIKE THAT.
SO, WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
BUYING FLOWERS, MAYBE?
VERY FUNNY. JUST LOOK THIS OVER FOR ME, OKAY?
MY GOOD-NESS... THESE SPECS ARE REALLY OLD.
Hmm...A "GRAVITA-TIONAL DISRUP-TOR"...?
DO YOU SEE HOW IT WORKS?
YESSSS, I THINK I'VE GOT THE GENERAL IDEA...
...BUT THIS "QUENCHED-FIELD" INDUCTOR HERE... DO THEY EVEN MAKE THEM ANY-MORE...?

FLOWERS BY LIL
ISN'T THAT WHERE YOU BLACK-MARKET PARTS DEALERS REALLY SHOW YOUR STUFF?
OH. VERY WELL-- WHY NOT? I'LL GIVE IT A TRY.
"NEW OLD STOCK" WILL COST YOU, THOUGH.
STILL. THIS REALLY IS BRILLIANT. WHO DREW IT UP?
I KNOW IT WASN'T BRECKEN-RIDGE.
"DOCTOR JAN FLOYD"...?
DON'T TELL ME--?!
YES. DR. JAN FLOYD...
...WAS MY DAD.
THAT DOCTOR FLOYD...?
OH. MY...
BRECKENRIDGE LABORATORY
GIVE ME MONEY

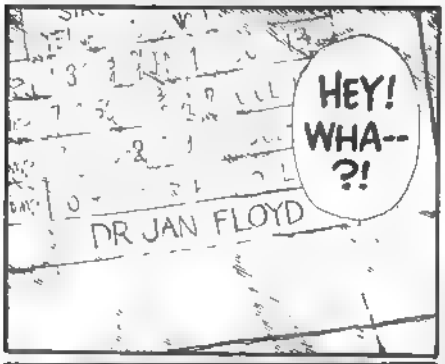
SPLOOSH
KBLOOSH
天回
CHINESE RESTAURANT

LABORATORY
THAT SILLY JIM. HE NOT EVEN EAT.
MAYBE HE STILL ANGRY?
BUT I MAKE THIS SO DELI-CIOUS
BRECKENRIDGE
LABO RATORY
GIVE ME MONEY
JIM...?
AIYAA ?

JIM?
HELLO? JIM?
UMPH...
YOU NO GO WORK? YOU GET UP NOW, I THINK SO!
YOU!
YOU WAKE UP NOW!!
mff... GODDA DAY OFF.. DON'T GET TO GO TO THE FLOWER SHOP T'DAY. MMPH.
HEY, CHINA!
GIMME ANOTHER PLATE OF THEM THERE POT STICKERS!
OKAY!


HRMM...
....
HM!

DAMN THING IS *PERFECT.* A PERFECT GRAVITATIONAL DISRUPTOR. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
I KNEW JIM WAS WORKING AWAY ON SOMETHING, BUT *THIS!*


HEY! WHA--?!
DR JAN FLOYD

HAH! SO *THAT'S* IT! IT'S JIM'S *FATHER'S* WORK! WHAT A RELIEF!
CHINA DEAR, MORE TEA!
OF *COURSE* JIM COULDN'T DO IT.. NOT SOLVE A PROBLEM THAT HAS DEFIED THE BRILLIANT DOCTOR BRECKENRIDGE HIMSELF .. *NYA-HA-HA!*

....
....

JIM'S FATHER?
*Hmm?!*
JIM'S FATHER INVENTOR, TOO...?

NO! BAD DOC-TOR!
I GET YOU--
EEK!!
?!? EH?!
J-JIM?!
er. HI...
OWW!

"MISS CHINA, THE HUMAN HAMMER"..! BENT THESE STEEL RODS JUST RIGHT!
HA HA HA... SAVED ME A LOT OF TIME!
THANKS, CHINA!
.....
HEY, DOC-- HAS THE KID FINALLY LOST IT?
FIGURES... MUST BE THE FLOYD FAMILY CURSE, EH?
HIS POOR OL' MOM MUST BE SPINNIN' IN HER GRAVE...
.....
RMMBB
BRMMBLL
RMMBB
WAAH! WHAT HAPPEN NOW?!

.....
.....
.....
....?
AIYAA!
JIM!
JIM, UP THERE!!
JIM!
AWW, HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT, MISS CHINA!
HE'S RIGHT! THERE AIN'T NO CURE FOR IDIOTS!
JIMMM!!
VROOOO

JIM! YOU ALL OKAY ?!
YOU--
HO HEE HEE!
NYA HA HA HAAA!
I DID IT!
EUREKA !!
HA HA HA HA!
HE BLEW OFF THE WHOLE ROOF?!
OH, CHINA... THAT'S SO FUNNY!

LILY
IT NOT, NOT FUNNY! YOU NOT LAUGHING, LILY!
SORRY, CHINA, SORRY!
I'M SORRY, BUT I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
REALLY, WHY DON'T YOU JUST LEAVE HIM ALONE, CHINA? HE'S DOING WHAT HE LIKES. .
...AND BESIDES, THE FLOYD FAMILY IS FAMOUS AROUND HERE FOR THEIR.. um...SLIGHT ECCENTRIC-ITIES.
....!
PEOPLE SAY JIM'S FATHER WAS BLOWN UP DURING AN EXPERI-MENT.
DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
OF COURSE, IF YOU INSIST, I COULD PROBABLY PERSUADE HIM TO STOP...
...HMM?
AFTER ALL, JIM AND I ARE SUCH GOOD FRIENDS...
HMPH!

That night, China stayed up all night searching for shooting stars.
It seems her requests were a little more numerous... and a little more serious... than usual.
mmph... murg... zzzz..

JIM...?
HUH? CHINA? WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP SO LATE?
I... CAN-NOT SLEEP...
OH, GOSH, I'M SORRY! WAS I THAT LOUD?
Umm...
Er.. BY THE WAY, CHINA-- IS THERE ANYTHING SPECIAL YOU WANT TO WISH FOR?

HMM? WHY?
I'VE MADE A VERY SPECIAL SHOOTING STAR... ONE FOR SOMEONE AS GREEDY AS A CERTAIN MISS CHINA I KNOW!
....
....
YOU...
...YOU MAKING THAT THING FOR CHINA?
"THAT THING"...? GEEZ, SHOW A LITTLE RESPECT, HUH?
I CHRISTENED IT THE FLOYD 2-- THE ETERNAL SHOOTING STAR!
THIS ONE'S GONNA WORK, I'M SURE OF IT.
STUPID...
JIM A BIG STUPID!
STUPID STUPID STUPID!!

I BE WORRY-ING.
WORRY-ING SO, SO MUCH!
YOW!
STOP! WHOA!
HEY, IT'S KINDA LATE NOW...WE DON'T HAVE TO LAUNCH OUR SHOOTING STAR UNTIL TOMORROW.
O.K.?
SO TRY TO GET SOME SLEEP, OKAY?
NO NO NO NOOO!!
CHINA WANT DO HER WISHING NOW!
RIGHT NOW, YOU BET!!
YEEP! OKAY, OKAY!

THE EARTH SPINS ON ITS AXIS, GENERATING A CENTRIFUGAL FORCE THAT PROPELS US OUTWARD.
ROTATION
THE EARTH
NORMAL MASS CHINA
GRAVITY
CENTRIFUGAL FORCE
BUT AT THE SAME TIME, THE EARTH HAS ITS OWN INTERNAL FORCE, A PRODUCT OF ITS MASS: GRAVITY. IF IT WASN'T FOR GRAVITY, WE WOULD ALL BE FLUNG OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH BY CENTRIFUGAL FORCE.
MY GOD!
HO
GRAVITATION
GATE
AND SO, THE KEY IS--
--THE MAGNIFICENT FLOYD 2, OUTFITTED WITH A TIMER-RIGGED GRAVITATIONAL DISRUPTOR.
MY "ETERNAL SHOOTING STAR" IS TOUGH ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND THE INTENSE HEAT GENERATED BY ATMOSPHERIC FRICTION, AND SO IT CAN BE RETRIEVED AND USED OVER AND OVER AGAIN. WE CAN--
OH, ALL RIGHT... I'LL LAUNCH IT RIGHT AWAY!
REMEMBER, CHINA, IT'LL BE GONE IN A FLASH, SO WATCH REAL CLOSE.
AIYA!

MY "ETERNAL SHOOTING STAR" IS NOT ACTUALLY ORBITING THE EARTH. AFTER THE GRAVITATIONAL DISRUPTOR ALLOWS THE CENTRIFUGAL FORCE TO FLING IT AWAY FROM EARTH...

...IT SLOWS DOWN GRADUALLY, THEN FALLS BACK INTO THE ATMOSPHERE. I SET UP THE VECTORS SO IT WILL ENTER AT A LOW ANGLE AND MAKE A NICE, LONG FIRE TRAIL FOR YOU.

BUT... IT'S GOING TO TAKE A WHILE.

SO DON'T BE SO IMPATIENT, OKAY? JUST RELAX AND WAIT.

OKAY...

YOU CAN THINK ABOUT YOUR WISH WHILE YOU'VE GOT THE CHANCE, HMM?

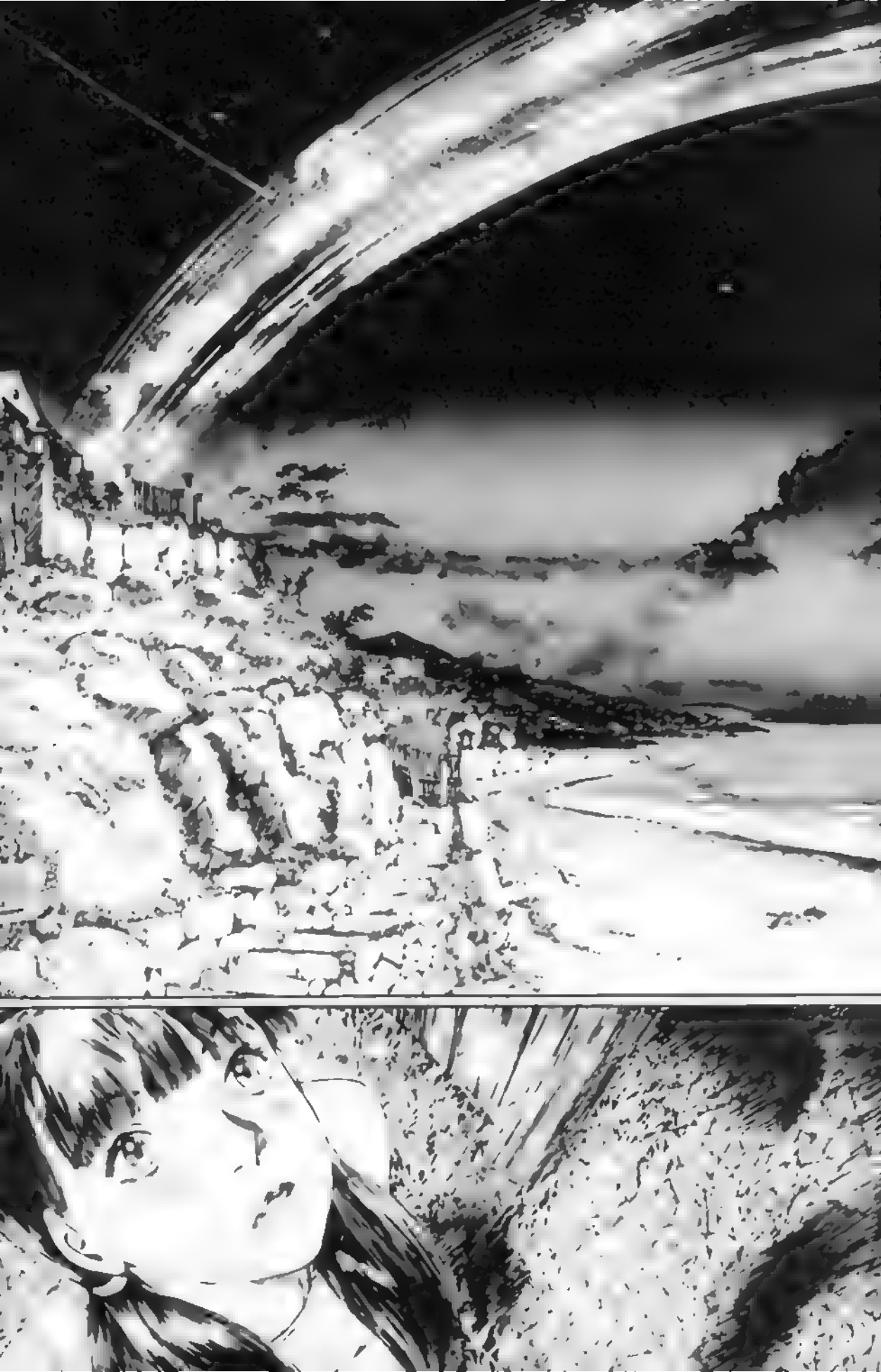
=YAWN=

G'NIGHT.

.....

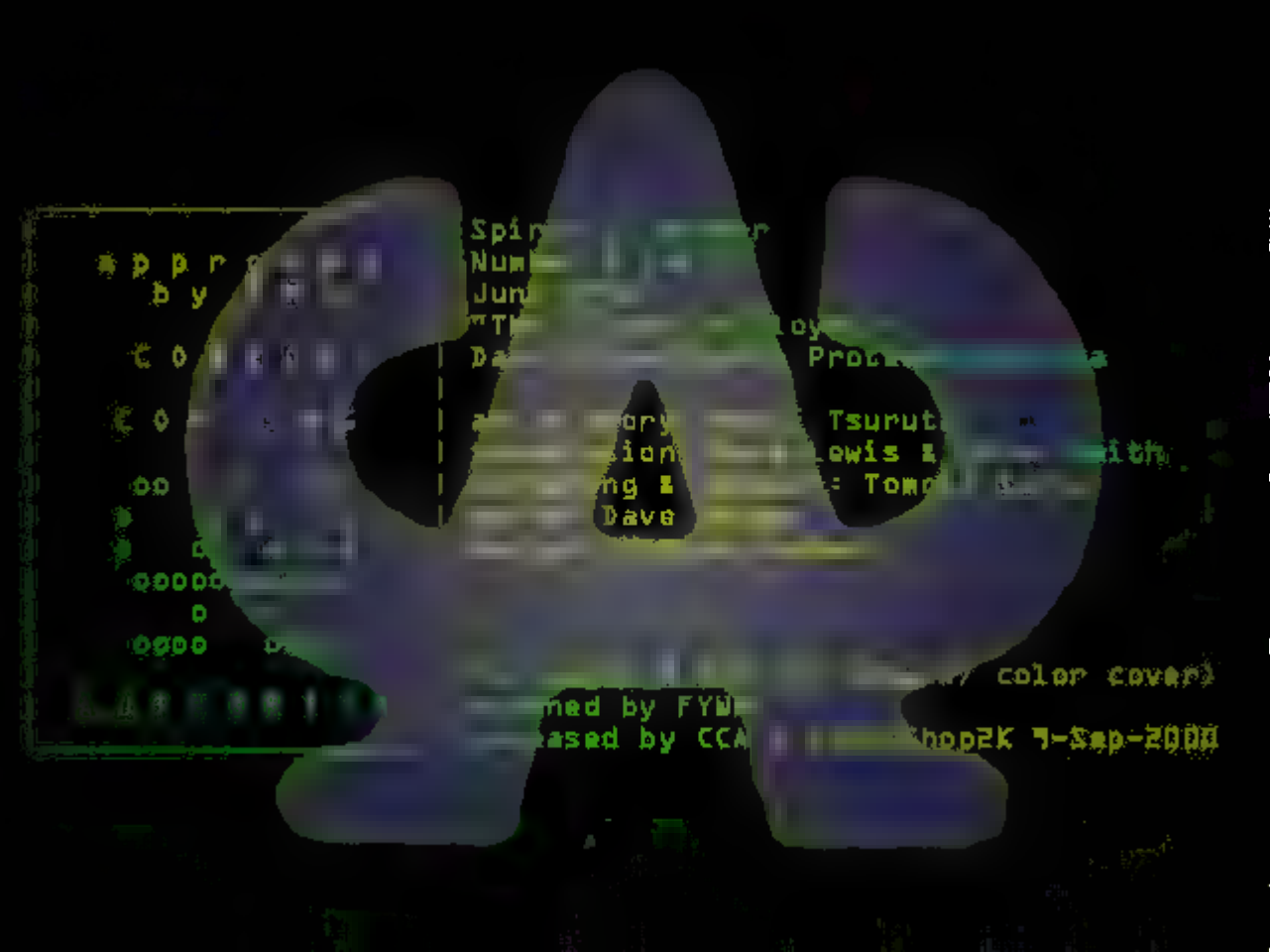
.....

.....



MY GOD!!
CHRONICLE
DAILY NEWS
THE METEORIC THING
AN ENORMOUS METEORITE, MAKING A DIRECT HIT ON THE LAND OF THE FREE?!
THIS IS AMAZING! INCREDIBLE NEWS!!
UNPARALLELED IN HISTORY

Hmm... Ho!
Hrmm... "The Great Breckenridge Crater"...! Not a bad idea...
Yes... yes, that's what we'll do.
I'll use Jim's gravity disruptor to make the sky rain artificial meteors!
What wish did China make that night upon her personal shooting star?
And was that very special request ever granted?
Well, the next time you eat at Ten-Kai, you could always ask her yourself.
天
Next issue: "Miss China Strikes Back"!



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SPIRIT OF WONDER
ザ スピリット オブ ワンダー
CHINA STRIKES BACK
or, Doctor Breckenridge and the Astounding Instantaneous Matter Transmitter!
Art and story by: KENJI TSURUTA

hahh-

kkhoh!

AIYAA...

CHINA'S HEAD POUND-ING SO MUCH!

BRECKENR LABORATO

KENRIDGE ATORY

JIM! BREAK-FAST TIME!

YOU PRETEND-ING NOT HOME AGAIN?!

Keep Out

Hmm.. ?

RESTAURANT

AH...
AHH ?!
KRASH
....
....!
AH...
....
....
AAAAA?!

AH, WELL... AS WITH ANYTHING INVOLVING THE FEISTY MISS CHINA, THE ORIGINS OF THE INCIDENT WERE ACTUALLY QUITE MINOR EVENTS.
LET US BRIEFLY BOARD OUR IMAGINARY TIME MACHINE AND GO BACK TO SEE THE CHAIN OF EVENTS...
WOW--I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED?
OOH, MISS CHINA'S REAL ANGRY!
I KNOW WHAT IT IS! IT'S BOY TROUBLE!
SOMETIMES YOU GUYS ARE SO DUMB!

HRMM! EXCELLENT, EXCELLENT!
THE "FLOWER SHOP" COMES THROUGH AGAIN!
FLOWERS by Lily
THAT JIM...
...WHAT ON EARTH DOES HE PLAN TO DO WITH A CLUNKY OLD INVENTION LIKE THIS, NOWADAYS?
3½
FLOWERS by Lily
BY Lily
YOU DID A FINE JOB GETTING THESE PARTS, M'DEAR-- MAGNIFI-CENT AS ALWAYS!
BUTTER ME UP ALL YOU WANT, PROFESSOR... IT'S STILL CASH ON DELIVERY.
HRMM...

GAD!
ER... I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, M'DEAR!
Lily
3½
WELL, WELL!
GOOD-NESS ME!
MISS CHINA LOOKS RATHER OUT OF SORTS TODAY.
ACTUALLY, THAT GOOD-FOR-NOTHING JIM HAS BEEN LOCKED UP IN THE LAB FOR SEVERAL DAYS...
AH-HAH! I GET IT!
Hmm...
SO SHE'S LIKE THAT ALL DAY LONG, EH?
OOH, SCARY!

DOC-
TOR
BRECKEN-
LIDGE
!!
天回
CHINESE RESTAURANT
I NOT HEARING YOU EXCUSE!
THIS MONTH YOU PAY MY RENT, YOU BET!
CAN'T WE DISCUSS THIS?
I TOO FIND THE SITUATION DEPLORABLE AND YET.
.IT'S LIKE THE OLD SAYING-
--"A MAN WHO HAS NOTHING CANNOT GIVE ANYTHING AWAY."

AAGH!
THEN YOU SELL BIG PILE JUNK TO IRON JUNK MAN, YES?!
KRNGG
BKOOM
AIEE !!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, CHINA?! YOU WRECKED MY WORK!!
THAT NOT RIGHT WAY TALKING FOR LAZY BUM WHO NO PAY HIS RENT.
JIM... .....
YOU GOOD-FOR-NOTHING, LAZY BUM !!
YOU NOT LIKE IT, THEN YOU JUST GO LEAVE TEN-KAI!
"LAZY BUM"... ?! WHY YOU--

SLAM!
MUD

gulp
glp
glurp

AHHH...
hic
YEOW! THAT'S TOO DAMN SPICY TO EAT!
YEAH... THIS PLACE HAS REALLY GONE DOWNHILL.

KRAAAH
YOU SAYING MY COOKING BAD TASTE, EH? EH?!
NO, NO! JUST A LITTLE... er... HOT?
:hic:
HEY, MISS CHINA, CALM DOW--
YOU SHUT UP!! BAD MANS !!
GLURK!
WHOA, CHINA! ARE YOU CRAZY?! FIGHTING WITH YOUR OWN CUSTOMERS ?!
C'MON, CUT IT OUT!
DAMMIT, MISS CHINA!!
UH... oops...

EEEK! PERVERT! DIRTIES!
CHINA HATING ALL OF YOU!
ALEEE!
YOU ALL GET OUT OF MY TEN-KAI !!
OH, BOY.
NOW WHAT'S SHE UP TO?
NOW SEE HERE, JIM-- THIS IS ALL BECAUSE YOU'VE NEGLECTED BASIC "MISS CHINA MAINTENANCE."
PLEASE. IN THE FUTURE HANDLE THINGS IN SUCH A WAY THAT I DON'T WIND UP CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE!
=HIC=
WHEW...

AIEE!
WHAM
JIM! SHE'S BACK!
BRE
N
FWHD
LABORATORY
phewww...
GIVE
G
I
N
....
....
CURSES! SHE'S CAMPED OUT THERE, THE LITTLE DRUNK! ANY IDEAS, JIM?

LET'S JUST SKIP OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
... ?!
LOOK, IF SHE THROWS OUT ALL OUR EQUIPMENT, IT'LL MAKE OUR RENT PROBLEM LOOK LIKE PEANUTS, RIGHT?!
I KNOW, JIM, I KNOW... BUT WHY DON'T YOU LOOK AROUND YOU AT ALL THIS STUFF BEFORE YOU START TALKING ABOUT "SLIPPING AWAY IN THE NIGHT"...!
DON'T WORRY... I'VE GOT A PLAN.

TELEPORTER

MY GOD!

AN INSTANTANEOUS MATTER TRANSMITTER?!

LET'S ACT ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT WE ARE IN FACT THE VICTIMS HERE.

RIGHT, CORRECT. ABSOLUTELY.

NOW THAT WE'VE POURED ALL OUR MONEY INTO THE "FLOWER SHOP," WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE WE MAXIMIZE OUR RETURN ON INVESTMENT, RIGHT?

GIVE ME MONEY.

NOT THAT I'D EVER INTENDED TO USE IT THIS WAY...

CHINESE RESTAURANT

hahh..

NOW SHE HAD NOT ONLY DRIVEN AWAY HER CUSTOMERS, SHE HAD EVEN LOST HER TENANTS...
FOR CHINA, IT WAS THE START OF A MORE MELANCHOLY TIME THAN EVER BEFORE IN HER LIFE.
CLOSED

HAH ?!
THWD
KRAK
THUD
THMP
WHDD
AHH...
UMPH...
MMM!
HNNH...
WHUD
WHMP
AIYAA !
THEY COMING BACK ?!
YOU THINK YOU COME AND GO AS YOU PLEAS-ING?!
HYAH!
MISS CHINA ANGRY NOW, YOU BET! THIS TIME I REALLY THROW YOU OUT!

OKAY, JIM!
I... AH... HMM?!
AH, SO... NO WAY HE COMING BACK.
.....
.....
CHINA, MAYBE YOU BE GOING FUNNY IN HEAD...

HAAAAA
HYAA!
HYAA!!
AAAH!
THIS MORNING SO FINE FEELING!

OKEY-DOKE! NOW GET TO WORKING!
OH, NO, CHINA!
NO GOOD. NO NO GOOD. YOU HAVE TO BE FORGETTING HIM, OKAY?

SMILE, BIG SMILE!
EVERY-THING A-OK, SO SMILE, YES?
GOOD MORN-ING!
LORDY, MISS CHINA! SOMETHING GOOD HAPPEN TO YOU THIS MORNING?
HEH-HEH, YOU BET! LITTLE GOOD, VERY HAPPY!

NOT MUCH IN STOCK, AND WHAT THERE IS...
£2/6
WELL, I'M SORRY ABOUT ME PRICES, MISS CHINA.
THE COST O' STOCK IS ALWAYS UP IN WINTER, BUT THIS IS THE WORST I'VE SEEN IN MANY A YEAR.
TH... THAT...
THAT NO CAN BE HELPED, YES?
er... PLEASE WAITING ONE MINUTE...
.....
.....
AH!
WHO
STOP, THIEF!
SOME-ONE SEIZE THAT SCOUN-DREL!

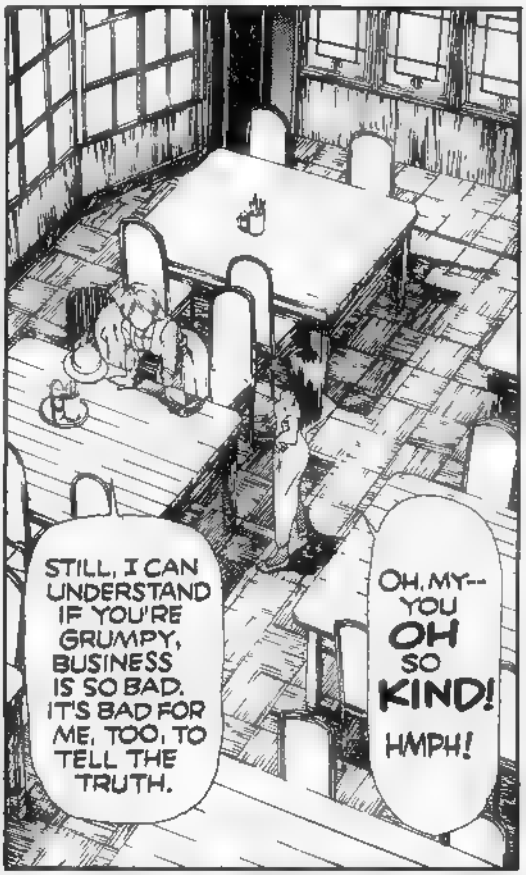
FWAK
HYAH!
WHOK!
STEALING THINGS VERY BAD!
CHINA STOP YOU, YOU BET!

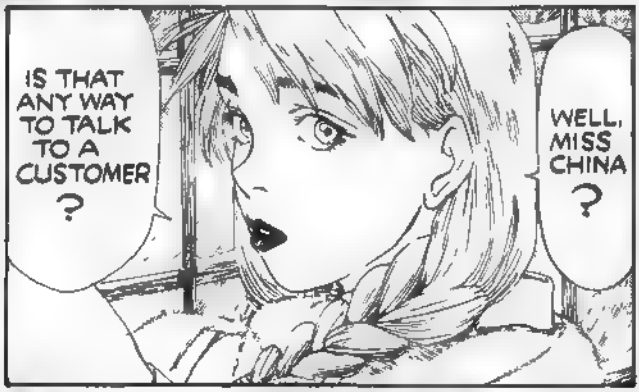
KRAK
TOK
HYAA!
GOD PUNISH IF YOU NO WORK !!
STEALING, BAD! EAT AND NO PAY, BAD! NOT PAY RENT, VERY BAD!!
YOU LISTEN GOOD TO CHINA, YES?
YES!!
WHY YOU NO ANSWER ?!

FWUMP
OKAY!
ONE "CHINA SPECIAL," ALL DONE!
....
....
....
....
....
....
...
...

天回
CHINESE RESTAURANT
CHING G♪
HI, HI! YOU SIT DOWN ANY--
UM... HELLO, THERE...
...MISS CHINA.

HMPH! WHY YOU COME HERE...
...FLOWER SHOP LADY LILY?!


OH, MY-- YOU OH SO KIND! HMPH!
STILL, I CAN UNDERSTAND IF YOU'RE GRUMPY, BUSINESS IS SO BAD. IT'S BAD FOR ME, TOO, TO TELL THE TRUTH.


WELL, MISS CHINA ?
IS THAT ANY WAY TO TALK TO A CUSTOMER ?

SO-- YOU ORDER NOW ?!
?!

紅豆沙奶條
Uh... WHAT DOES IT SAY?
Er... THIS IS THE MENU, RIGHT?

LATER...
EH ?!
...I GUESS I'LL JUST SAY "HI" TO JIM BEFORE I GO.
...NOW THAT I'VE COME SO FAR OUT OF MY WAY...
WELL, ANY-WAY...
OW OW OWW!
NO! NO GOOD! YOU NOT SEE HIM !!
...JIM NOW SO BIG, BIG RESEARCH! NO GOOD BOTHER HIM NOW, IT TERRIBLE! BAD TERRIBLE, OKAY?
I...NO, BUT... IT, IT LIKE...
EXCUSE ME, MISS CHINA...
...BUT IS THERE SOME LAW AGAINST ME SEEING HIM?
SO...ER... TODAY YUMMY FOOD ALL ON MY HOUSE, OKAY? OKAY, OKAY?
.... ....

ANYWAY, THE REAL REASON I CAME BY WAS TO GIVE HIM THESE FLOWERS.
COULD YOU PASS THEM ALONG? IT'S ALMOST HIS BIRTHDAY, I BELIEVE.
AIYAA...
WHAT IT BE SAYING HERE?
Have a very happy birthday, Jim! I♥LOVE♥YOU! Lily
HEE, HEE...
"I... LOVE... YOU..."
OH, I NEARLY FORGOT-- THE FOOD WAS QUITE SUPERB, MISS CHINA.
I'LL BE SURE TO DROP BY AGAIN. THANK YOU FOR LUNCH.
.....
.....
Have a very happy birthday, Jim! I♥LOVE♥YOU! Lily
"I LOVE YOU..."
OH, MY...

TO BE CONCLUDED!

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# CHINA STRIKES BACK, Part 2

PSST! IT'S LILY!
I'M DELIVERING THOSE "FLOWERS" YOU ORDERED.
NOK NOK NOK

....
....
....
♪ HELLO, JIM! ♪
YOU GOT THE GOODS?
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE!
YOU'RE SURE NO ONE SAW YOU, RIGHT?!
NO, AND DON'T FORGET-- IT'S TWENTY PERCENT EXTRA FOR DELIV-ERIES.
GOOD HEAVENS!

WATCH YOUR STEP, LILY.

WELL, WELL... I GUESS THERE *IS* A POINT TO THIS LITTLE HIDEOUT OF YOURS, JIM.

YEP... IT'S LIKE A STAGE SET OF TEN-KAI'S SECOND FLOOR.

CHECK IT OUT!

A SET, *Hm...?*

NOT THAT I REALLY CARE, BUT ISN'T IT A LITTLE, *um,* ***FLIMSY*** ?

I FEEL LIKE THE WHOLE THING COULD JUST COLLAPSE AT ANY MINUTE.

KREEK

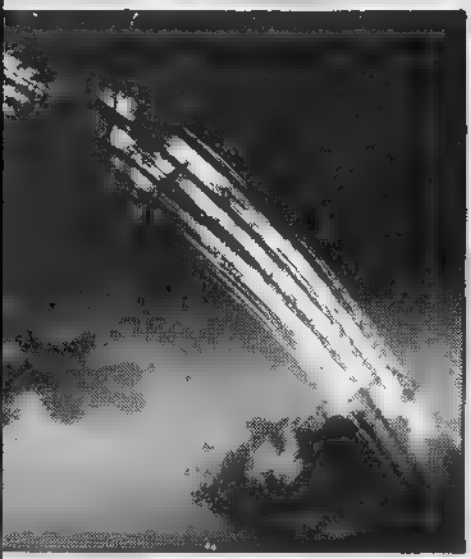
GEE.. ***FLIMSY*** IS PUTTING IT NICELY.

LABORATORY
GIVE ME MONEY
請你算吧
PAY UP NOW!
房費
HMPH!
HERE! FROM FLOWER GIRL!

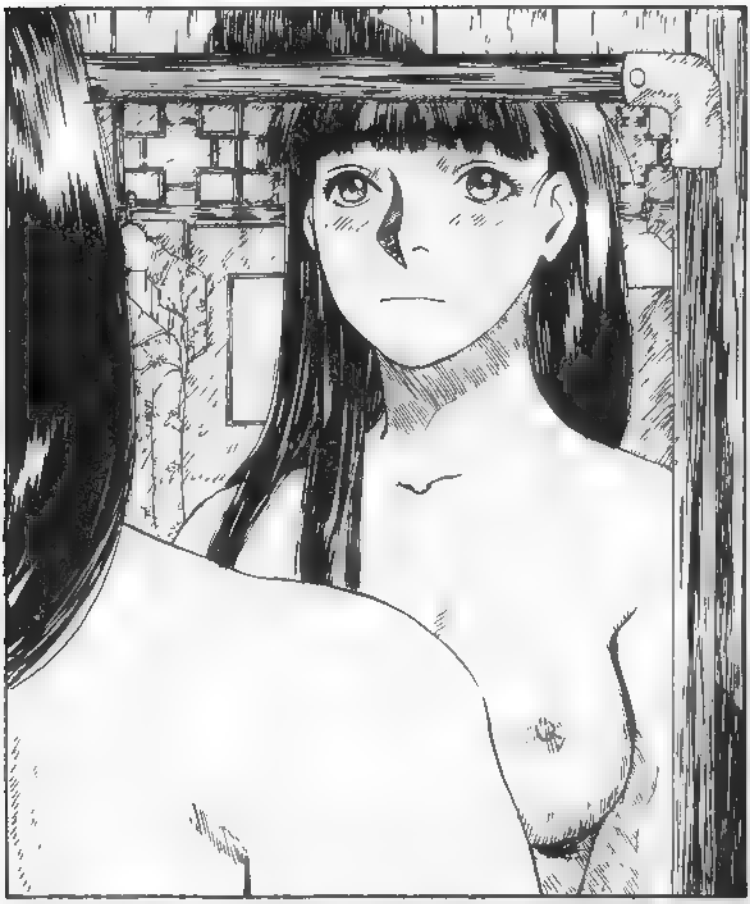
TELEPORTER
IN
CHINA TELEPORTS FROM TEN-KAI
CHINA ARRIVES ON SET (DOESN'T NOTICE)
OUT
GEE, THAT WASN'T VERY NICE!
WINTER FLOWERS ARE EXPEN-SIVE!
HOW RUDE.
OH, NO...! THEY'RE ALL BRUIS-ED...!
YOU KNOW... I'M REALLY KIND OF IMPRES-SED.
IT'S A TELE-PORTER TRICK... AM I RIGHT, JIM?

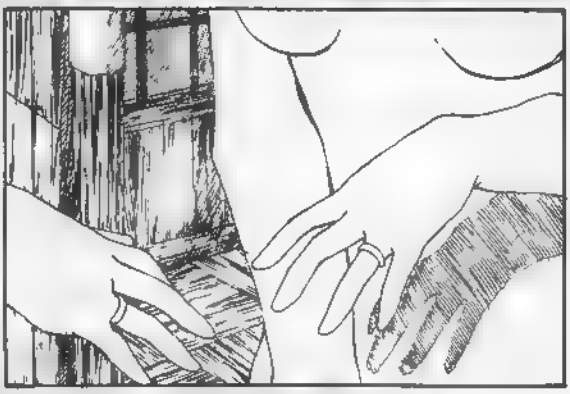
Breckenridge Lab
YOU GOT IT. WE RIGGED UP MATTER TRANSMITTER TERMINALS IN THE DOOR AND THE WINDOW...
...BOTH OF THEM CONNECTING TO THIS LITTLE ROOM. IN OTHER WORDS, WE WERE ABLE TO SNEAK OUT OF TEN-KAI WITHOUT EVER LEAVING OUR ROOM.
天国
EMPTY
Breckenridge Lab
(Dummy)
FERBLES
TELEPORTER
Mini Main Unit
THE MAIN UNIT'S UNDER HERE. IT'S A LITTLE RISKY, BUT...
...WELL, ANYWAY, LET'S JUST SAY THERE'S ROOM FOR SOME MINOR IMPROVEMENTS.
"MINOR"?
YOU REALLY DON'T BELIEVE IN PLAYING IT SAFE, DO YOU, JIM...?
OH, WELL. ANYWAY, HERE THEY ARE. PLEASE DON'T WASTE THEM ON ANYTHING SILLY.
IT'S NOT EASY GETTING THIS STUFF!

BOO!!
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO THAT!
NYA HA HA HA!
I SWEAR, SOMEDAY CHINA'S GOING TO KILL THE BOTH OF YOU.
AND YOU'LL DESERVE IT!
....
Have a very happy birthday, Jim!
I ♥ LOVE ♥ YOU!
Lily



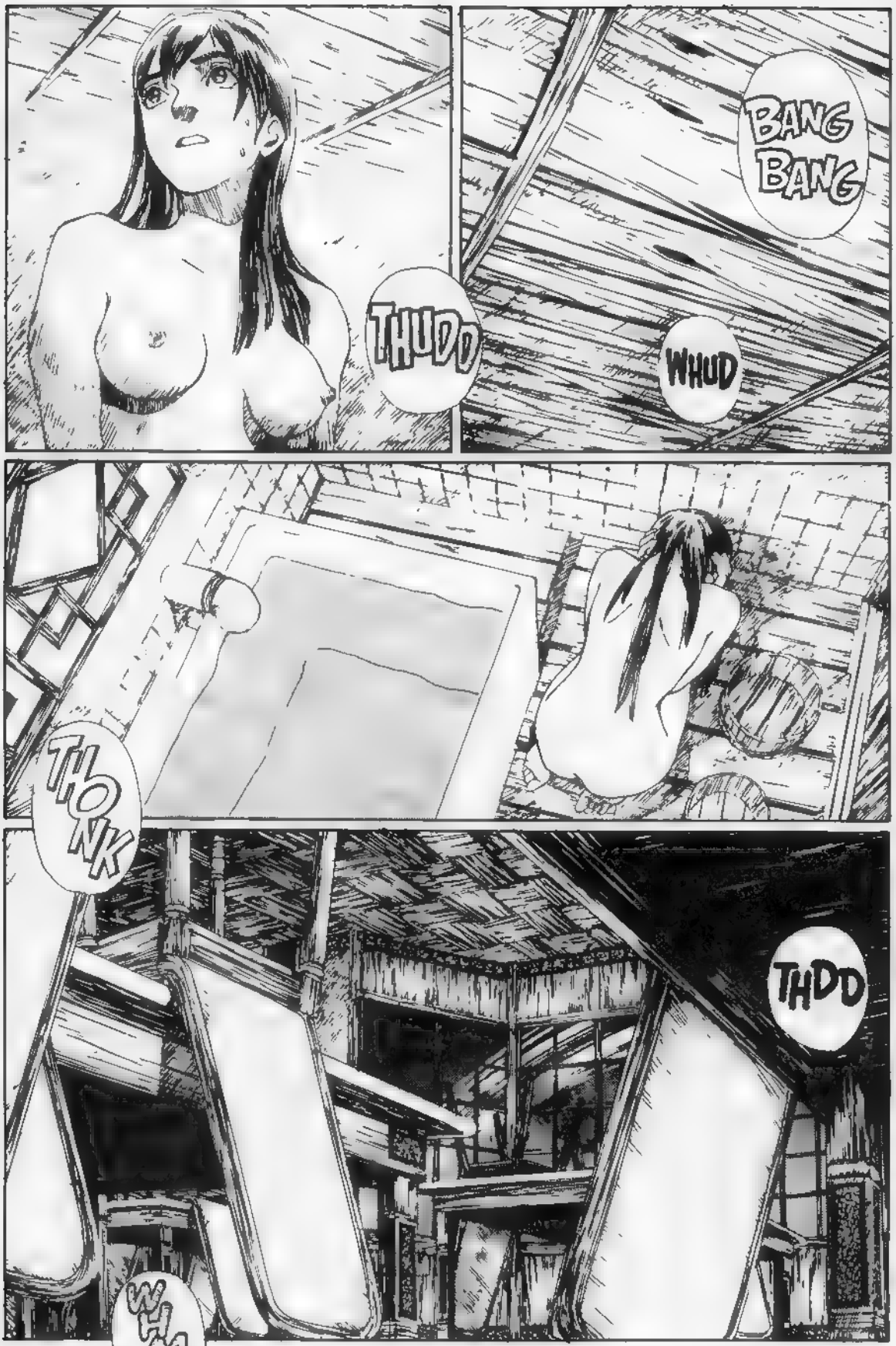
CHINESE
RESTAURANT





KYAK
CHINA HOPE YOU NOT COME BACK NEVER !!
JIM SO, SO STUPID !!
JIM STUPID! STUPID! STUPID!
STUPID !!
ZAM
WHUD

THUD
WHMP
THUD
OPEN
THUD
THNK


THUDD
BANG BANG
WHUD
THONK
THDD
WHMP

.....
....!
A-AIYAA...
....!
Welcome
PAY US NO RENT
請你算吧
PAY RENT
AAH?!!
DOC--
DOC-TOR BRECKEN-LIDGE!!

OOOH... MISSSS CHINA...
AH AH
YESSS...
I'M BAAACK.. FOR YOUUU...
AIEEE!
EEEK!

AIYAAA!
SKRASSH
WHAM
YOU STAY AWAY ME!!
EEEK!
GET AWAY!!
WHAM
WHD
KRASH
KRAK
?!
A!!!
YAAA!
SKRAK

EEK...?
I Love Yo

YEEK!
WHAK
EEEK!!
AHAAAA!
OH, NO! THE MATTER TRANS-MITTER!!
FZZZ AP
SPZZK
FZAP
ZAKK
SOME... SOME-THING TOUCH MY... MY...
WAAHH! CHINA CAN TAKE NO MORE!

SLAM
;hahn;
;hahn;
....?
EH?
AYAA?!

HAIEE
YAAAAA!!
ve lou
ER... AH... H-HELLO THERE...

DOC-
TOR
BRECKEN-
LIDGE
!!
WHERE
THAT
DAMN
JIM?!
YOU
TELL
ME
NOW,
I BET
!!
I
FIND
YOU,
JIM!
JIMMM
!!
WHERE
YOU
HIDE,
JIM
?!
I Love You

CHINA NOT BE ANGRY, I PROMISE! PLEASE YOU COME OUT NOW!
HEH, HEH...
JIMMM!
WHERE YOU BE?!
JIMMM!
EHN?

WHAT THIS ?
AiYAAA...
I LOVE YOU...?
....!
"I... LOVE... YOU"...?
I Love You

WELCOME TO TEN-KAI (COURTESY BRE RIDGE LABS)
MADE BY DR. BRECKENRIDGE (GENIUS)
THE MISS CHINA MOOD CAM
USING THE MATTER TRANSMITTER LIKE A MOTION-PICTURE BROADCAST DEVICE FOR ADVERTISING... HMM!
YOU FINALLY MADE SOMETHING *USEFUL*. FRANKLY, I'M AMAZED.

C'MON-- DON'T WE DESERVE BONUS POINTS FOR ADDING A ZOOM AND TRACKING FUNCTION?

MAYBE I SHOULD ASK YOU TO MAKE ONE FOR MY FLOWER SHOP, TOO. BUSINESS IS SO BAD THESE DAYS...

OH, YES, BEFORE I FORGET... JIM, HAVE YOU FINALLY MADE UP WITH MISS CHINA?

OH, YEAH, ABOUT THAT...

WHAT KIND OF FLOWERS DO YOU THINK SHE'D LIKE...?

AIYAA!

WHERE IT GO TO?

IT SO, SO STRANGE...

EVER SINCE IT APPEARED, THE TEN-KAI VIDEO BILLBOARD HAS BEEN BELOVED BY THE PEOPLE OF BRISTOL: THE BRECKENRIDGE LABS' "MISS CHINA MOOD CAM."

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO STILL HAVEN'T BEEN TO TEN-KAI, TODAY LOOKS LIKE IT SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT... MISS CHINA SEEMS QUITE HAPPY. BY ALL MEANS, DO GO GIVE THE FOOD A TRY!

THE END OF SPIRIT OF WONDER

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Number 5 (of 5)
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"China Strikes Back, Part 2"
Dark Horse/Studio Proteus/Kodansha

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